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# HEAVYWEIGHTS AWAIT THE CHALLENGE

By Matt Galea

After last season's gutting grand final loss to arch rivals Sydney, on home turf, the Melbourne Victory will be eager to upstage their greatest rivals and bounce back with a third Hyundai A-League Premiership.

Despite finishing second to Sydney FC, Melbourne Victory manager, Ernie Merrick, has elected not to delve into the transfer market to strengthen his squad. In fact, with both of last season's senior goalkeepers, Glen Moss and Mitch Langerak, both leaving the club in the off season, as well as the failure to make Nik Mrdja's loan move permanent have raised many questions over the depth, particularly in goals and up front, of this Victory squad.

Merrick's only moves in terms of squad expansion has been the signing of Australian goalkeeper Michael Petkovic from Sivasspor in Turkey on a free signing and the promotion of two of Victory's youth squad in Sebastian Mattei, Petar Franjic and Diogo Ferreira, the latter having already made his senior debut in Melbourne Victory's 1-0 win over Kawasaki in their last Asian Champions League campaign. Merrick justifies this lack of activity however by insisting that the two time champions should look for stability instead of making rash signings after a final which on another day could have seen the end as champions:

"We've had continuity building up this squad going into the sixth season. We've promoted some of the youngsters knowing that we've got a long year. We are very much aiming to developing a larger squad to cope with the stresses of the

year."

Despite his overall happiness with his squad, Merrick has admitted his side do lack a quality centre forward, a deficiency which needs to be urgently addressed, with Archie Thompson not set to return from the knee injury he picked up in last year's Grand Final until the New Year:

"The one piece of the jigsaw we really need is a high quality striker in the same style as Archie and we will hold out until we get the right person, but we have to take our time, be patient and get it right."

Ernie Merrick believes that this season his squad will be better than ever and with a bit more luck with injuries, Melbourne Victory will go one better this season, and recapture the Premiership title they lost last season.

"Injuries slowed us up last year and now we haven't had to go out [and] find new players and get them used to the way we play, we will be better than ever and - if we can make this final signing - we'll have the best squad we've ever had."

With key players such as Billy Celeski, Matthew Kemp, Surat Sukha and Tom Pondeljak all looking to have much more success this season with injuries, it is easy to understand Ernie Merrick's optimism. It's hard to find a squad with a better midfield than the one Merrick has put together in the whole competition, and as such expectations will be high for Victory and their supporters in this coming season.

Victory's pre season has been a rather subdued one this season. They have only played four games, winning two, against Bentleigh Greens and Dandenong Thunder, losing one against Boca Juniors



Victory fans will hope Robbie Kruse and Carlos Hernandez hit their straps early until Archie Thompson returns from injury. PHOTO: GEOFF JONES

despite a decent performance and drawing against the Central Coast Mariners. Merrick explains this rather short pre season by suggesting that a lack of new blood has meant he has had to spend less time on the usual strategic elements of the pre season, and instead focus on its intensity:

"I haven't had to go over strategy again. We are trying to develop strategy but we are not starting from scratch. All in all, it's been a shorter build-up, it's been easier because of the quality of players we've had and how long we've been with us."

It is without doubt Carlos Hernandez who will prove Victory's most important player this season. The creative midfielders fantastic vision will once again make up for his lack of pace, and his im-

proved stamina last season demonstrated an ability to be a game changing player for all of ninety minutes. A talent that is essentially unique to Melbourne Victory, he brings something different to the A-League and is a player whose refreshing approach to the game in very physical league can wreak havoc amongst the oppositions defence. Factor in Archie Thompson's knee problems which will keep him out of the clubs attempts to once again win the Hyundai A-League title, there is little doubting who the Victory supporters, and indeed the players, will look to for their attacking inspiration on the pitch. It is however pivotal that he is protected to a much greater extent than he was against Sydney FC in last season's Grand Final.

## FAST FACTS

Year founded: 2005  
Home ground: AAMI Park / Etihad Stadium  
Chairman: Geoff Lord  
Coach: Ernie Merrick  
Assistant coach: Aaron Healey  
Captain: Kevin Muscat

Ins: Michael Petkovic, Sebastian Mattei, Petar Franjic, Diogo Ferreira  
Outs: Mitchell Langerak (Borussia Dortmund), Glen Moss (Gold Coast Utd)

1 Michael Petkovic	Goalkeeper
2 Kevin Muscat	Defender
3 Mate Dugandzic	Midfield
4 Petar Franjic	Defender
5 Surat Sukha	Defender
6 Leigh Broxham	Midfield
7 Matthew Kemp	Midfield
8 Grant Brebner	Midfield
10 Archie Thompson	Striker
11 Marvin Angulo	Striker
12 Rodrigo Vargas	Defender
13 Diogo Ferreira	Midfield
14 Billy Celeski	Midfield
15 Tom Pondeljak	Midfield
16 Carlos Hernandez	Midfield
17 Matthew Foschini	Midfield
19 Evan Berger	Defender
20 Sebastian Mattei	Goalkeeper
21 Robbie Kruse	Striker
22 Nick Ward	Midfield
23 Adrian Leijer	Defender
24 Luke Pilkington	Midfield
25 Luke O'Dea	Striker
26 Nick Ansell	Defender

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# COAST AIMS FOR A GOLDEN JACKPOT

By Tony Persoglia

Gold Coast United polarised the A-League in its inaugural season. On the one hand, it assembled a talented squad which played an attractive brand of sumptuous football which fell just short of claiming the A-League Premiership at its first attempt. On the other hand, the club was a distraction that FFA could have done without, with poor crowds and an outspoken owner bringing headlines for all the wrong reasons.

For a club that has a fantastic home venue in Skilled Park and an ever growing football community on its doorstep, the fact that barely 4,000 fans were in attendance for its one and only knockout final against the Newcastle Jets was a failure of epic proportions. It was proof that the club did not engage the football community. The 10,000 registered players that play the sport every weekend under the Gold Coast Soccer umbrella, not to mention the South Brisbane football community which enjoy the sport in similar numbers, were literally nowhere to be seen.

Skilled Park is curiously located, and over-inflated ticket prices were a result of the escalating costs associated with running the venue, and resulted in a laughable scenario where the club capped attendances to 5,000. Once the furore of Capgate had subsided, the club left with the diehard football fans, but the family support which the A-League thrives upon simply could not afford a night out at Robina. With entertainment opportunities plentiful on the Coast, is it any wonder that the fans stayed away in droves. Whether the revised membership pricing structure that the club now has in place will have the intended impact remains to be seen.

On the field, Miron Bleiberg has retained the core of his third-place finishing squad,

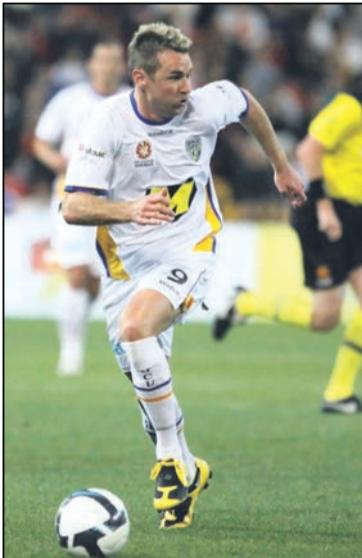
led admirably by captain Jason Culina, who will be desperate to impress after a largely disappointing World Cup, where he was played out of position during the Germany horror show, and never seemed to quite regain his confidence as a holding midfielder in Australia's remaining group games. Culina is a proud individual, and Bleiberg has no finer example of a leader at his club.

The Socceroo stalwart is rejoined in the midfield by Zenon Caravella, a revelation in his first season back in Australia after a stint in Europe, Steve Pantelidis and Robson da Silva, who add the necessary bite and spark required to control the centre of the pitch. Bleiberg also expects big things from youngster James Brown, who has shown glimpses of his undoubted potential, and with a full pre-season under his belt appears likely to force his way into the starting eleven.

Defensively, the club have strengthened their goalkeeping stocks with the acquisition of Glen Moss, who is keen to put the disappointment of his World Cup suspension and a below-par season with Melbourne Victory behind him. Perhaps their best signing has been the former Manchester United, Blackburn Rovers and Nottingham Forest defender John Curtis, who at 31 and with over 15 years experience in England, brings a level head and versatility to Bleiberg's defence.

There is unquestioned depth here, with the pace of Adam Traore, Anderson Da Silva and Michael Thwaite, all of whom are unafraid to venture forward and provide penetration in an attacking foray. The anticipatory skills of Bas Van den Brink broke down many opposition attacks last season, and the experience of Kristian Rees, Daniel Piorkowski and Dino Djublic, will provide plenty of competition for starting positions throughout the campaign.

Upfront, the club has been boosted by the



Fresh from World Cup exploits via a quick stopover in China, Shane Smeltz will be hot property once again. PHOTO: GEOFF JONES



Gol by name, goal by nature: The promising Golgol Mebrahtu will be one to watch in HAL Version VI. PHOTO: Courtesy GCUFC



## FAST FACTS

Year founded: 2008  
Home ground: Skilled Park  
Chairman: Geoff Smith  
Coach: Miron Bleiberg  
Assistant coach: Mike Mulvey  
Captain: Jason Culina

Ins: Glen Moss (Melbourne Victory), John Curtis (Northampton, ENG), Golgol Mebrahtu (GCU Youth), Jerrad Tyson, (GCU Youth).  
Outs: Charlie Miller (released), Richard Greer (released), Jess Vanstrattan (Central Coast Mariners).

Squad List:	
1 MOSS Glen	Goalkeeper
2 PANTELIDIS Steve	Midfielder
3 THWAITE Michael	Def/Midfielder
4 PIORKOWSKI Daniel	Defender
5 ROBSON Alves da Silva	Midfielder
6 DJULBIC Dino	Defender
7 CARAVELLA Zenon	Midfielder
8 ANDERSON Alves da Silva	Def/Midfielder
9 SMELTZ Shane	Striker
10 CULINA Jason	Midfielder
13 VAN DEN BRINK Bas	Defender
14 PORTER Joel	Striker
15 MINNIECON Tahj	Striker
16 REES Kristian	Defender
17 OSMAN Matt	Midfielder
18 BROWN James	Midfielder
19 BARISIC Andrew	Striker
20 HIGGINS Scott	Goalkeeper
21 MEBRAHTU Golgol	Striker
22 TRAORE Adama	Defender
23 FITZSIMMONS Steve	Midfielder
24 CURTIS John	Defender
30 TYSON Jerrad	Goalkeeper

# Bring on a Black (and Yellow) Friday

By Mark McGeady

The looming Sunday 1st August deadline for signing a full cohort of players has been avoided by Wellington Phoenix. Today they have announced the signing of Socceroo Jade North, bringing the confirmed squad to 20 players.

They will however be aggressively examining its remaining lone trialist and if things go as planned, the Phoenix will sign Indonesian International Bambang Pamungkas. According to the club's Media and Communications Manager, John Mitchell, "There's every chance we'll have 21 in the season-ready squad"

This will add to an already strengthened team containing the exciting Mirjan Pavlovic and Argentinian Roberto "Toto" Cornejo. Both played well in the recent match against the touring Boca Juniors, although the game itself was quite uninspired at times.

Overall the pre-season has been a stilted affair. The return of the All Whites from South Africa has created a strong sense of expectation within both team and fans, but with it an urgency for the Phoenix to prove themselves against any opposition. This was evident in the game against Boca. Tim Brown's aggression got the better of him in many competitive situations as he sought to push the smaller South Americans off the field altogether. These creases can be ironed out however, as the team looks to build on a valiant 2009/2010 season. The last campaign left no stone unturned, but did uncover a few weaknesses in the side; namely the reliance on a single striker, a general lack of injury cover across the park, specifically

in the middle of defence and the spark to attack from the beginning of every game. There were too many great comebacks ending in draws last season.

The fans agree. According to Yellow Fever stalwart David Cross, the signing of Jade North, just confirmed by Phoenix head coach Ricki Herbert, is "probably the key to everything this season. We need cover for Sigmund and Durante desperately...and that he doesn't use an import spot, [to achieve it] with the Ivan Vicelich boat having sailed to China it's a position that would have to be filled with an import if North doesn't come off."

The test will come in a few days' time where Wellington fans will be hoping for a black (and yellow) Friday 13th. They meet Gold Coast United at Westpac Stadium, a team they put 7 goals past last season. This will be somewhat of an unusual encounter with All Whites at potentially both ends of the Gold Coast line-up. The team has signed former Wellington stopper Glen Moss from Melbourne, who joins the somewhat indecisive Shane Smeltz who is back in the squad after a very brief trip to China.

Gold Coast will hold no fear for the Phoenix who will relish the opportunity to make a good start to the new season. Games again Central Coast and Brisbane Roar will follow, as Wellington will look to go into the sterner fixtures of Sydney FC and Melbourne Victory on maximum points. To solve this puzzle, the Phoenix will look to North to lock things up in the heart of defence while at the same time unleashing the goal scoring potential of Bambang "Bam Bam" Pamungkas up front.



The Phoenix will hope to pick up where it left last season and cause a few surprises along the way. PHOTO: MARK McGEADY

The sun is shining on Bam Bam's trial in Wellington. The forecast is a windless weekend, a rarity of late here in the capital. The foundation is set for the Indonesian to demonstrate why he's scored well over 100 goals for club team Persija Jakarta for whom he debuted in 1999. Bambang is an out-and-out striker whose sinewy aggression makes up for his diminutive stature. The potential for his pairing with the likes of Paul Ifill and Leo Bertos is an attractive proposition. This is the kind of forward incisiveness that has been lacking from a team with great midfield ability.

The 2010/2011 season will be a watershed year for the New Zealand sports team. There are rumours of a youth or

reserve side being entered in the NZ Football Championship, critical to developing young New Zealand talent. The Phoenix must "get them involved in the professional environment earlier and develop them alongside the likes of Marco Rojas and James Musa and in five years we might see a side with an even broader kiwi flavour."

Friday the 13th stands as a tantalising fixture. The success and elevation of Ricki Herbert and the All Whites has fixed the spotlight firmly on the domestic game. The Wellington Phoenix will seek to leverage this groundswell of support and carry the huge crowds of last season all the way to the Grand Final.



## FAST FACTS

Year founded: 2007  
Home ground: Westpac Stadium, Wellington (cap. 34,500)  
Chairman: Terry Serepisos  
Coach: Ricki Herbert  
Assistant coach: Luciano Trani, Jonathan Gould  
Captain: Andrew Durante

Ins: Dylan Macallister, James Musa, Oscar Roberto Cornejo, Mirjan Pavlovic

Outs: Jonathan McKain, David Mulligan, Costa Barbarouses, Eugene Dadi, Adrian Caceres, Liam Reddy, Michael Ferrante

Squad list:  
Mark Paston (gk)  
Tony Lochhead  
Andrew Durante  
Ben Sigmund  
Leo Bertos  
Tim Brown  
Manny Muscat  
Troy Headfield  
Paul Ifill  
Chris Greenacre  
Dylan Macallister  
James Musa  
Marco Rojas  
Oscar Roberto Cornejo  
Vince Lia  
Mirjan Pavlovic  
Reece Crowther (gk)  
Diego Walsh  
Daniel Cortes.



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# FOWLER FACTOR TO GIVE WEST THE BEST

By Jacob Kagi

With the signing of former Liverpool legend Robbie Fowler, confidence at Perth Glory is high as it tries to end its title drought.

Perth hasn't come close to winning the Hyundai A-League title and it's been a long wait for the fans of the former National Soccer League's glamour club, with Glory not having won a final since its 2004 NSL triumph.

Last year was an improvement for Perth, making it to the finals for the first time in the A-League, but a heartbreaking penalty shootout loss to Wellington Phoenix in the first round put an end to hopes of anything greater than that.

The 2009-2010 campaign was considered a failure by Glory, with big-name recruits Chris Coyne, Andy Todd, Jacob Burns and Mile Sterjovski not enough for it to mount a serious title challenge, but it's hoped with the addition of Fowler, things will be different this year.

Fowler is joined by former Brisbane Roar striker Michael Baird and defender Josh Mitchell in the squad, and Mitchell may have a big part to play in Perth's season.

Todd will miss at least the first game against North Queensland Fury on August 6 while Coyne, his partner in central defence from last year is on loan in China and will miss a substantial chunk of the season.

Mitchell joined Jamie Coyne in central defence at the start of Perth's 3-1 victory against the WA state team in its final warm-up game and it's believed coach Dave Mitchell will go with that combination at the start of the season.

Jamie Harnwell, who played as a striker in that game, is another option to fill in defensively but is more likely to figure off front this season.

With Jamie Coyne likely to figure in the centre of defence, Scott Neville is likely to start the season at right-back, although several teams exploited his defensive weaknesses early last season and he is ideally more of a right-winger, while youngster Josh Risdon is also a candidate for time at right-back.

Naum Sekulovski will be the first-choice left-back, but youngster Brent Griffiths may get a chance there later in the season.

In central midfield, former Socceroo Burns and Steven McGarry, who arrived midway through last season, will be the preferred pairing, with Adriano Pellegrino one of few players in the squad who can cover that area if need be.

The hottest competition for spots in the squad comes in the attacking positions, with Baird, Branko Jelic, Andrija Jukic and Harnwell all candidates to start alongside Robbie Fowler if Mitchell sticks with the 4-4-2 he has used throughout the pre-season.

Mitchell seems to like the way Fowler and Harnwell work together, but Baird and Jelic are both highly thought of and are likely to start some games up front.

Australian marquee player Mile Sterjovski will be one of the starting wingers, with Viktor Sikora, Pellegrino, Jukic, Todd Howarth and Neville candidates to grab the other spot.

Howarth was one of the shining lights of last season and will figure prominently on the left-wing, with Sikora the big question mark in that group after his work rate came into question at times during a disappointing campaign last year.

Tando Velaphi has control of the starting goalkeeper spot but will be hoping to improve on an inconsistent year, while he is backed up by Aleks Vrteski.

Glory's strength is clearly its attacking class and depth, Glory's midfield will



Perth Glory aims to make a serious challenge for the title and hopes it doesn't fall short this time around. PHOTO: JAMES TRIAY

front, including arguably the best striker in the league, and a strong group of wingers.

One area it must improve on is getting the central midfielders to push forward, with Burns especially not doing enough at times last year to provide support on counter-attacks.

It may also take time for Mitchell to find the right strike partner for Fowler, but with so many options at least one of them should be able to link well with the veteran star.

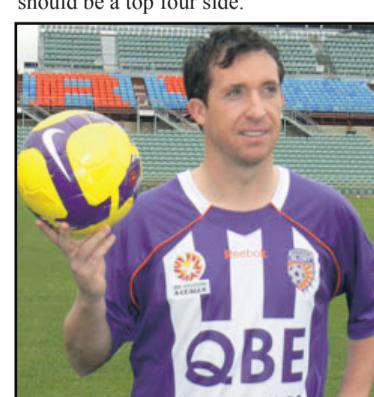
The biggest weakness will be the defence, especially while Chris Coyne is still in China, and it will take some young players stepping up and good organisation from Mitchell to fix that.

Josh Mitchell and Neville will play big roles at the back but both looked unconvincing at times in pre-season and will have to lift their game, while Sekulovski at left-back is another weakness.

With Sekulovski and Neville both attacking full-backs, Glory's midfield will

have to protect the ball well and McGarry especially will have to track back to help out the back four.

Owner Tony Sage has spent big to bring success to Perth's hungry football public and is desperate for it to be worthwhile on and off the field. Sage wants a title, and while his club will probably fall short, it should be a top four side.



Robbie Fowler. PHOTO: PGFC



## FAST FACTS

Year founded: 1996  
Home ground: nib Stadium  
Chairman: Tony Sage  
Coach: Dave Mitchell  
Assistant coach: Ian Ferguson, Kenny Lowe  
Captain: Jacob Burns  
Ins: Robbie Fowler, Josh Mitchell, Michael Baird, Steven McGarry  
Outs: Wayne Srhoj, Scott Bullock, Eugene Dadi, James Downey

1 VELAPHI Tando	Goalkeeper
2 MITCHELL Josh	Defender
3 COYNE Jamie	Defender
4 TODD Andy	Defender
5 HARNWELL Jamie	Defender
6 COYNE Chris	Defender
7 BURNS Jacob	Midfield
8 SIKORA Victor	Midfield
9 FOWLER Robbie	Striker
10 BAIRD Michael	Striker
11 JELIC Branko	Striker
12 NEVILLE Scott	Defender
13 AMPHLETT Tommy	Striker
14 McGARRY Steve	Striker
15 FONDYKE Howard	Midfield
16 PELLEGIRNO Adriano	Midfield
17 HOWARTH Todd	Defender
18 GRIFFITHS Brent	Defender
19 SEKULOVSKI Naum	Defender
20 VRTESKI Aleks	Goalkeeper
21 STERJOVSKI Mile	Striker
22 SKORICH Anthony	Striker
23 JUKIC Andrija	Midfield

# Sky's the limit for Culina's Jets

By Elizabeth Forden

**The Jets are set to return to winning ways this year after stability has once again been restored both on and off the field.**

Preparations for last season where less than ideal after their 2007/08 championship winning coach, Gary van Egmond, departed amid much public controversy following his decision to join the AIS.

Branko Culina thus filled the hot-seat just weeks prior to the season commencing, and although results were indifferent at times during the course of the season due to numerous injuries and unavailability of certain players, the team still played well enough to warrant a place in the finals.

Even with the crucial injury loss of key striker Michael Bridges, the Jets surprised many when it claimed the scalp of the more highly fancied Gold Coast United with a win on penalties after the scores finished 0-0.

However, an extra-time 3-1 away loss to the juggernaut that was Wellington Phoenix saw the Jets eliminated, but under the circumstances the team had gone a long way to restoring the pride that went missing towards the end of van Egmond's tenure.

While the Jets may have finished 2009/10 on a disappointing note, Culina did manage to get the team playing some positive football, and with a full pre-season under Culina the early signs are encouraging and given hope to many fans as well as players.

The Jets will begin the new HAL sea-

son with four wins from five games in a promising pre-season, showing other clubs that they will be playing some of the same quality technical football that Culina has introduced to their game.

Matt Thompson, who left on a free transfer to new club Melbourne Heart, is replaced by Bridges as captain, and has already taken up the position with refreshing energy recently saying that he has much confidence for the campaign ahead.

Outspoken defender and fan favourite, Ljubo Milicevic, has taken up the role of vice captain and will no doubt be as competitive as ever and providing further inspiration for his team mates.

Bridges stated that as long as the team maintain the winning attitude that they started their pre-season with, then their chances of success in the coming season are high.

"The squad and the team in general is a lot stronger than last year and we've got a lot more depth", he said.

One of their biggest strengths has been their high pass completion rate, which was one of the highest in the 09/10 season and an obvious hallmark of Culina's preferred style of play.

New signing and former Olyroo, Ruben Zadkovich, has already shown that he will be a key player after a two strong defensive games against Brisbane Roar and Rockdale City.

Bridges said that while it was expected the Jets should win their game against Rockdale the fact they did not concede a goal was a sign of better defensive shape than last season.



To the surprise of many, Branko Culina's Jets managed to soar all the way to the finals last year. Can they hit the heights this time around?

The central pairing of Ljubo Milicevic and Nikoli Topor-Stanley is one of the tallest and most solid in the league.

Ben Kennedy returns as keeper and showed glimpses of his talent towards the end of last season but will be looking to build on this and add some consistency to his game.

The Jets midfield also looks set to hold together quite well particularly with Kasey Wehrman and Jobe Wheelhouse to play alongside Ruben Zadkovich.

The failure to re-sign influential mid-

fielder Song Jin Hyung however is a sore loss for the Jets.

Song was one of the chief attacking points for the Jets last year and if they are going to be a threat this season they will need to find other ways to create goals.

Once again Bridges will lead the front line, but his tendency to spend more time on the injury table than on the playing field could be a worry for the Jets, who saw their form dip dramatically last season when forced to play without him.

## FAST FACTS

Year founded: 2004  
Home ground: Energy Australia Stadium  
Chairman: Con Constantine  
Coach: Branko Culina  
Assistant coach: Mark Jones  
Captain: Michael Bridges  
Ins: Ruben Zadkovich, Kasey Wehrman, Jeremy Brookie, Taylor Regan, Marcello Fiorentini, Zang Shou  
Outs: Fabio Vignaroli, Matt Thompson, Shaun Ontong, Jason Hoffman, Jin Hyung Song, Donny De Groot, Jason Naidovski

Squad list:  
1) Ben Kennedy  
2) Taylor Regan  
3) Adam D'apuzzo  
4) Nikolai Topor Stanley  
5) Ljubo Milicevic  
6) Ben Kantarowski  
7) Kasey Wehrman  
8) Michael Bridges  
9) Zang Shou  
10) Ruben Zadkovich  
11) Tarek Elrich  
12) Jobe Wheelhouse  
13) Sash Petrovski  
14) Labinot Haliti  
15) Sean Rooney  
16) Jeremy Brookie  
17) Marcello Fiorentini  
18) Marko Jesic  
19) Ali Abbas  
20) Neil Young (currently sick)  
21) Brodie Mooy  
22) Kaza Patafa  
30) Paul Henderson (injury replacement for Neil Young)



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# Straka hopes to fuse the Fury fervour

By Mark Boric

**It has been a tumultuous off-season for last year's new kids on the A-League block, North Queensland Fury. Faced with a cash crisis after original owner Don Matheson withdrew his financial backing, the future of the club was in jeopardy until the FFA stepped in. Coach Iain Ferguson took up a job as assistant to Dave Mitchell at Perth Glory. He was later joined by marquee signing and Liverpool legend Robbie Fowler, with whom he'd had a very public falling out in the latter stages of the season.**

It was a season that looked destined for misery as an opening 2-3 defeat at home by Sydney FC was followed by a 5-0 hammering from Gold Coast United at Skilled Park. A 3-3 draw at Adelaide United saw the club pick up its first point in Round Four, the first win coming with a famous 1-0 victory at Sydney FC in Round Six courtesy of a wonderful strike from Fowler. More goals from Fowler and steady improvement, coupled with strong home form at Dairy Farmers Stadium, saw the club finish in a creditable 7th place. It was three places above the bottom of the table many pundits had penciled them in for and only just out of the Finals placings.

The club's new coach is Frantisek Straka. Capped 35 times as a player for Czechoslovakia, as well as managing the Czech Republic national team for one game, his coaching resume includes spells at Sparta Prague, Viktoria Plzen, Wacker Tirol, OFI Crete and most recently, MFK Ruzomberok.

Veteran midfielder Ufuk Talay has assumed the captain's armband with the departure of Fowler. New signings include Ghana-born Togo international defender Eric Akoto from OFI Crete. Akoto has made over 50 appearances for Togo, during a club career with various Austrian and Slovenian clubs. Another new defender is Englishman Mark Hughes, a former Everton youth player who has played his senior football with Northampton Town and Walsall.

Gareth Edds and Simon Storey have been lured back from overseas by the Fury for 2010-11. Sydney-born Edds, who can play

in midfield or defence, played in the English lower leagues with Nottingham Forest, Swindon Town, Bradford City, Milton Keynes Dons and Tranmere Rovers. Former Melbourne Victory premiership and championship winner Storey returns to the A-League after spells at Partick Thistle and Airdrie United in Scotland.

German defensive midfielder Andre Kilian has also been signed. Kilian failed to break into the first team squad at Schalke 04, and played all his senior football for their second side in the Regionaliga West. The twenty-three year old is the fourth foreigner on Fury's books, alongside Akoto, Hughes and Dyon Daal.

With Fowler gone, the Fury will be looking to beanpole striker Daal for more goals. Last season he netted five from 22 appearances, after initially being brought into the squad as a short-term injury replacement. A cult figure, he has played international football for Netherlands Antilles.

More will also be expected of David Williams. The former Youth international in all age groups, also with two Soccereroo caps, returned home after three years in Denmark with Brondby. The time to deliver on his potential has arrived, as a rather threadbare Fury attack will be depending on him for more than just the odd glimpse of talent.

Adam Casey, a midfielder who was a fringe player at Sydney FC, has headed north in search of more regular first team opportunities. Former National Youth League Player of the Year Panny Nikas has followed suit after being released by the Central Coast Mariners. Chris Payne also moves to Queensland, the former Manly United striker scoring three goals from 19 appearances in his time at defending A-League champions Sydney FC.

Jack Hingert, formerly of Knox City and Dandenong Thunder, will be looking to get more of a run at right back after having his season derailed by injury in the club's first year. He is the only Victorian on the Fury roster.

Justin Pasfield, the former understudy to Clint Bolton at Sydney FC, made the Fury No.1 shirt his own after getting a run ahead of Paul Henderson early last season. He is joined in the goalkeeping department



Togo International, Eric Akoto.  
PHOTO: COURTESY NQFFC



Ufuk Talay will captain the Fury.  
PHOTO: COURTESY NQFFC

by Matthew Ham, who has floated between Brisbane Roar and the Fury on short-term deals over the last few years.

AIS graduate Isaka Cernak has crossed over from Brisbane Roar, for whom the twenty-one year old made 14 appearances. Former Adelaide United youth team player Osama Malik remains in the squad after making 6 appearances last season. The squad is rounded out by another former Adelaide United midfielder, Jason Spagnuolo, Chris Grossman a regular in last season's midfield, and Brett Studman, a former Australian Under 17 World Cup defender signed from Bankstown City in the NSWPL after time at Sydney Olympic and Newcastle Jets.

The FFA will be hoping crowds will consistently top the 8,000 mark at Dairy Farmers Stadium in order for the club to remain viable. Though the opening season turn-outs seemed quite reasonable for a regional city, and were better than those of fellow newcomers and glamour club Gold Coast United, they were not enough to stop Matheson from walking out when the losses became overwhelming. Hopefully the loss of drawcard Fowler will not prove too significant.

The Fury have had a promising pre-season leading up to the A-League opener

against Perth Glory on Friday. Following a slow start, with a 0-0 draw against North Queensland Razorbacks, the goals started to flow against the State League sides. The Razorbacks were crushed 7-2 at the second time of asking before Whitsunday Miners were humbled 8-0. Visiting Papua New Guinea O-League Champions Hekari United were beaten 4-1 at Brolga Park. The first test against A-League opponents saw a narrow 0-1 defeat by Gold Coast United at Carrara Stadium before an Adam Casey goal brought about a 1-0 win at Brolga Park over Adelaide United on Friday.

It will be hard to see the Fury contending for Finals action. With the loss of Fowler it is hard to see Fury having the class to match last season's effort. Unless there are hidden gems amongst the imports, the Townsville locals main cause for celebration may be merely still having a team in the competition at all. Fury will be banking on Straka emulating fellow countryman Vitezslav Lavicka and proving to be tactically more astute than his local rivals. They will also continue to prove to be particularly difficult opponents at home, with travel and tropical conditions set to upset visiting teams.

## FAST FACTS

Year founded: 2009  
Home ground: Dairy Farmers Stadium  
Chairman: N/A  
Coach: Franz Straka  
Assistant coach: Stuart McLaren  
Captain: Ufuk Talay

Player/In :  
Adam Casey (Sydney FC), Brett Studman (Bankstown City Lions), Andre Kilian (FC Schalke 04 II, Germany), Simon Storey (Airdrie United FC, Scotland), Panny Nikas (Sutherland Sharks), Matthew Ham (Brisbane Roar), Isaka Cernak (Brisbane Roar), Chris Payne (Manly United), Mark Hughes (Walsall, England), Eric Akoto (OFI, Greece), Eugene Sseppuya (FK Sudova)

Players Out :  
Robbie Fowler (Perth Glory), Jeremy Brookie (Newcastle Jets), Rostyn Griffiths (Central Coast Mariners), James Robinson (released), Paul Kohler (Sutherland Sharks), Terry Cooke (released), Fred Agius (released), Jacob Timpano (Sydney United), Scott Wilson (released), Robbie Middleby (retired), Shane Steffanuto (Brisbane Roar), Chris Tadrosse (released), John Tambouras (Guangzhou FC, China), Beau Busch (Manly United), Karl Dodd (released), Paul Henderson (Sydney Olympic)

Squad List:  
1) Justin PASFIELD, 2) Jack HINGERT, 4) Eric AKOTO, 5) Mark HUGHES, 6) Ufuk TALAY, 7) Gareth EDDS, 8) Adam CASEY, 9) Eugene SSEPPUYA, 10) Dyon DAAL, 11) David WILLIAMS, 12) Panagiotis NIKAS, 13) Andre KILIAN, 14) Chris GROSSMAN, 15) Chris PAYNE, 16) Simon STOREY, 17) Osama MALIK, 18) Brett STUDMAN, 19) Isaka CERNAK, 20) Matthew HAM, 21) Jason SPAGNUOLO.

# Arnie's Mariners aim for Dutch delights

By Adrian Deans

Eleven out and eleven in – that, plus a new coaching staff, and you start to get a sense of how profoundly different the Mariners will be in Season VI.

Early indications are good. Graham Arnold has the team playing a typical Dutch game – lots of player mobility and one or two touches being the standing order as fast ball movement provides the key to unlocking defences.

Much has been made of Australia's (New Holland's?) ongoing fascination with the Dutch system (and the part Arnie has played within that system), but to play Total Football, you must have the right kind of players. In a salary capped league with a limited squad size of 23, 11 changes might as well be the whole team. We won't recognise the Mariners (or their style) this year, and although it's early days, I'm going to stick my neck out and say it's already looking good.

So who are the players to look out for and why do they suit the system?

We have to begin with **Oliver Bozanic** – a Central Coast youngster (with a famous Dad Vic) who started out playing for my own beloved Avoca Sharks, Ollie was always going to be a football thoroughbred. You wouldn't have thought an apprenticeship at Championship club Reading was preparation for anything more than crunching tackles and broken teeth, but despite his tender years, Ollie is an elegant midfielder with exactly the level of touch, vision and passing range that Arnie will need to translate his Dutch style into the final third. Steve Coppell (who brought him to Reading) was never your typical blood and thunder Championship style manager

and he obviously saw something, perhaps more suited to the Premier League with the right sort of development. I'm tipping Bozanic to emerge as a major star this season.

**Patrick Zwaanswijk** (from NAC Breda) may be 35, but he is a young 35 and impressed me immediately as a strong defensive player who will easily cope with the demands of the A-League. He will hopefully develop a good relationship with Alex Wilkinson, who is still young enough to learn from a senior professional. As for his place in the system, if you want to play a Dutch style, send for a Dutchman.

**Daniel McBreen** – a proven goal scorer in the English lower leagues who looked awfully good at the end of last season (first for North Queensland and then for Perth). McBreen is 33 but will hopefully bring out the best in Matt Simon and Nick Mrdja (either in partnership, or simply as a catalyst to deserve their spots). It gets harder every year after 30, but if he can start where he left off last year, he'll be good value.

**Patricio Perez** – has played 26 games for Argentina at U17 and U20 level, which makes him good enough for the Mariners... just. An attacking midfielder, at 25 he is at his physical peak and will provide flair and goals. Within the rigid and highly technical Dutch system employed by the Mariners, he can do what he damn well pleases as far as I'm concerned.

**Jess Vanstrattan** – replaced the much-loved Danny Vukovic after the latter's move to Turkey and, in the eyes of Mariners fans, has big shoes to fill. Vanstrattan is yet another off the production line



Looking the goods: Wyong Shire Mayor, cr Bob Graham, Mariners players John Hutchinson, Alex Wilkinson, Rostyn Griffiths and Daniel McBreen with new sponsor Primo Smallgoods Managing Director Paul Lederer and Mariners Executive Chairman Lyall Gorman. PHOTO: JOHN DEWBERRY

of Australian goalkeepers with strong European CVs. Has played for Juventus and Verona, so I guess he just sneaks in by Central Coast standards. Had a good season for the Gold Coast last year, after a slightly unconvincing start, so fingers crossed he finds form straight away for the Mariners. At 28, he is entering the best years of his career.

**Mustafa Amini** – in some ways the most interesting of all the new players. Amini is 17 and yet another attacking midfielder with a classical football development via the AIS and junior national teams. I have to confess I haven't seen him play yet, but Lawrie McKinna was raving about him at

the end of last year and those who have seen him so far this season find it difficult to enunciate his praises with their tongues hanging out so far. He's currently in Thailand with the U20s and I expect him to make a big splash this season.

For the Mariners in 2010/11, it's all about pace, touch and movement, with a liberal dash of individual flair to season the Dutch discipline. I expect the New Holland Mariners to do well this year.

*Adrian Deans is the author of Mr Clean-sheets – published by Vulgar Press, distributed by Dennis Jones and Associates and available in all good book stores.*



## FAST FACTS

Year founded: 2004  
Home ground: Bluetongue Stadium  
Chairman: TBA  
Coach: Graham Arnold  
Assistant coach: Phil Moss  
Captain: Alex Wilkinson

Ins: Jess Vanstrattan (Gold Coast United), Rostyn Griffiths (North Queensland Fury), Joshua Rose (Universitatea Craiova), Patrick Zwaanswijk (NAC Breda), Patricio Perez (Defensa y Justicia), Oliver Bozanic (Reading), Trent Sainsbury (AIS), Marc Warren (AIS), Mustafa Amini (AIS), Sam Gallagher (Sydney FC)

Outs: Danny Vukovic (Konyaspor), Nigel Boogaard (Adelaide), Dean Heffernan (Melbourne Heart), Shane Huke (Rushden & Diamonds), Dylan Macalister (Wellington Phoenix), Andrew Clark (retired), Ahmad Elrich (released), Andrew Redmayne (Brisbane Roar), David D'Apuzzo (released), Nicky Travis (released), Matthew Crowell (released).

Squad list: 1. Jess VANSTRATTAN (GK), 2. Daniel McBREEN, 3. Joshua ROSE, 4. Pedj BOJIC, 5. Brad PORTER, 6. Patrick ZWAANSWIJK, 7. John HUTCHINSON, 8. Rostyn GRIFFITHS, 9. Nik MRDJA, 10. Patricio PEREZ, 11. Oliver BOZANIC, 12. Matthew LEWIS, 14. Michael McGLINCHY, 15. Marc WARREN, 16. Trent SAINSBURY, 17. Chris DOIG, 18. Alex WILKINSON (C), 19. Matt SIMON, 20. Mathew RYAN (GK), 21. Sam GALLAGHER, 22. Mustafa AMINI, 23. Adam KWASNIK

## A-League | The Big Kick-Off

goalweekly.com



# BRISBANE PREPARE TO ROAR AGAIN

By Jarrod Ellis

The new motto featured on the Brisbane Roar website gives a subtle nod towards the embarrassing debacle for the club that was the 2009-2010 season. Crowds declining, an injury plague, senior players released, the coach sacked, the club captain quitting mid season, financial strife, the lowest league finish in club history --- if it could have gone wrong for the Roar last season it did.

Considering just how low of an ebb Brisbane reached earlier this year fans should go into this season with at least some optimism as it seems unlikely such a horror season could possibly be repeated. Manager Ange Postecoglou has had an entire offseason to dismantle the squad and rebuild it in his own image, recruiting a mix of both experienced players and promising youngsters that will hopefully perform as "one" to a much greater extent than their predecessors.

The defence, a Roar strength in recent seasons, has been given a major overhaul. Michael Theoklitos will be the new man between the sticks, the ex-Victory man returning to the A-League after a disastrous stint at Norwich City that saw him concede seven goals in his only first team appearance and miss the team bus upon his eventual recall. However, his form for Melbourne from 2006-2009 was exemplary and if he can regain his confidence he should provide a solid base for the defence.

Luke DeVere partners Matt Smith as the first choice defensive pairing, a youthful combination that should see DeVere shine now that he's no longer under the shadow of Craig Moore.

The left will most likely feature Shane Stefanutto, another player like Theoklitos

who's looking to re-establish his career after a recent bad run. After having to sit out almost the entire season last year Stefanutto has looked good in trial matches and has already stated his intent to eventually push for a spot in the Socceroos squad.

Ivan Franjic will be the man to do the job on the other side of the pitch, the pacey right back having put in some good performances since arriving on loan last season.

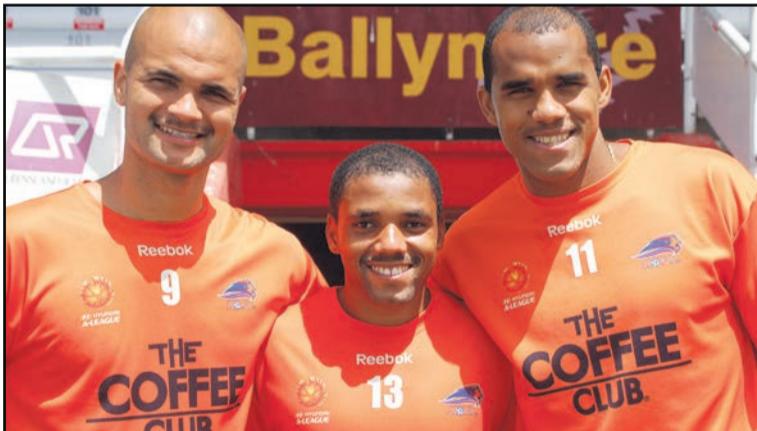
Midfield has also been an area of strength for Brisbane in recent seasons and despite losing the likes of Oar, Zullo and Sarota, the middle of the park is again looking like being Brisbane's strength. In Henrique and club captain Matt McKay the Roar have two solid A-League performers and with Massimo Murdocca returning fully fit after his broken leg last year there should be plenty of movement going forward.

Postecoglou had to act to replace the trio that left for FC Utrecht and has brought in Thomas Broich, Erik Paartalu, Rocco Visconte, Luke Brattan and James Meyer to bolster the depleted midfield.

Broich in particular has looked an intriguing prospect, drifting between the space behind the strikers and wider areas on the left during the trial matches. Traditionally an attacking midfielder, Brisbane will be looking to him to help unlock the defences of their A-League opposition.

Paartalu in contrast plays a much more defensive role, sitting in front of the back four and breaking up opponent's attacks. Standing 6'4" his height could be a valuable commodity at set pieces for a Brisbane side that lists Luke DeVere and Reinaldo as the only other players in its squad over six foot.

Putting the ball into the back of the net has been a major challenge for Brisbane for several seasons now and it will be interesting to see how the club fares with the



loss of Sergio van Dijk. Despite coming in for occasional criticism from fans and pundits alike for being slow and profligate in front of goal he was Brisbane's leading scorer and most consistent threat going forward for the past two seasons.

Van Dijk's strike partner Reinaldo remains at the club however and has been joined by Kosta Barbarouses and Jean Carlos Solorzano. The loan signing of Costa Rican striker Solorzano has generated a buzz at the club and fans are hoping he can prove to be as much a success as Carlos Hernandez at Melbourne Victory. With twenty-one goals from sixty-one appearances in his homeland his strike rate is higher than that of his compatriot but only time will tell if he can make as great an impact in the A-League.

The knowledge that this season surely can't be worse than the last and with a host of new players joining the club it's sure to be an exciting season for Brisbane and its fans. Whether it proves to be a successful one is an entirely different matter and anything higher than a mid-table finish will likely be looked upon as a resounding success.

With Sergio van Dijk departing for Adelaide United, the Roar will be looking to Henrique and Reinaldo to blossom in the goals department. PHOTO: COURTESY BRFC



Michael Theoklitos returns to the HAL after a dismal spell at Norwich City.



## FAST FACTS

Founded: 2005  
Nickname: The Roar  
Home ground: Suncorp Stadium (capacity 52,500)  
Colours: Orange, maroon and white  
Head coach: Ange Postecoglou (since October 2009)  
Captain: Matt McKay  
Last season: 9th

In: Kosta Barbarouses (Wellington Phoenix), Andrew Redmayne (Central Coast Mariners), Matthew Smith (North Queensland Fury), Shane Stefanutto (North Queensland Fury), Michael Theoklitos (Norwich City, England), Erik Paartalu (Greenock Morton, Scotland), Rocco Visconte (Heart of Midlothian, Scotland), Milan Susak (SpVgg Unterhaching, Germany), Thomas Broich (FC Nuremberg, Germany), James Meyer (Eastern Suburbs FC), Jean Carlos Solorzano (LD Alajuelense, Costa Rica), Luke Brattan (Youth)

Out: Sergio van Dijk (Adelaide Utd), Tommy Oar (FC Utrecht, Netherlands), Adam Sarota (FC Utrecht, Netherlands), Michael Zullo (FC Utrecht, Netherlands), Matthew Ham (North Queensland Fury FC), Isaka Cernak (North Queensland Fury), Andrew Packer (retired), Josh McCloughan (retired), David Dodd (released), Steven Bryce (released), Griffin McMaster (released), Tim Smits (released), Pieter Collen (released)

2010 A-League Squad  
Goalkeepers: Michael Theoklitos, Andrew Redmayne  
Defenders: Matt Smith, Luke DeVere, Shane Stefanutto, Ivan Franjic, Matt Mundy, Milan Susak  
Midfielders: Erik Paartalu, Thomas Broich, Massimo Murdocca, Henrique, Rocco Visconte, Matt McKay, Mitch Nichols, Luke Brattan, James Meyer  
Strikers: Kosta Barbarouses, Jean Carlos Solorzano, Reinaldo

# RINI'S REDS READY TO PLAY IT COOL

By Nat Adamopoulos

With the A-League only one week away, the buzz all around lil' Adelaide town is all about new beginnings, with the new coach Rini 'Cool' Coolen arriving on the scene.

After his somewhat lacklustre and undermanned coaching debut in the trial match against Perth Glory last week, the former FC Twente boss is all about getting the Reds playing the philosophy of Total Football, the Dutch way. "Winning is the most important aspect but we also want to play good football so the supporters can be happy. We have to show them an entertaining style of football but that will largely depend on the availability and quality of the players we have". When selecting players he says its important that they fit into the club culture, one which has impressed him immensely and vice versa, with the people of Adelaide warming to the new gaffer and looking forward to what he has to offer.

The Dutchman finds himself in the unusual position of taking over a club with a largely entrenched squad and pre-existing coaching staff. "Every coach would like to work with players they have chosen but this year I work with who Adelaide already has. That's why I signed for two years, next year I will have more control and influence." Coolen also speaks highly of the man he beat for the job assistant coach Phil Stubbins. "I prefer to have an assistant coach who wants to be the head coach. Phil is a man who has high aspirations to become a senior coach and I like that."

Stubbins, although understandably disappointed about the decision, has put that aside and is happy to stay with the club to assist Coolen. "I need to accept the decision by the Club and give Rini all the assistance I can

with the analysis of what the existing squad is capable of."

The new style of the Dutch Coach is warming to the people of Adelaide as his ideas and practices are being adopted and put into place. Another refreshing aspect of Coolen's coaching approach is that he has been venturing out to watch the local talent on offer in the FFSA Super League matches which pleases the masses. "I prefer to look at young talented players to develop them into good A-League players. If we mix this with good foreign players who have experience then they can play the way I like to play football. I prefer to play with good organisation, with a lot of goal chances, a lot of technical moments, not too much high balls – everybody wants to play like that. Players need to work hard and become important to the team – brilliant players consistently win the one on one duels, that's what usually wins games."

And after last season, that's exactly what the punters in SA want to see from their homeside...a winning team! The football fans in SA were bitterly disappointed with the Red's performance last A-League season, even more so considering the side had won their way magnificently through to the AFC Champions League Grand Final and done their state proud the season before that! Much talk was about how Aurelio Vidmar's ineffective 4-5-1 formation was the reason for their downward spiral. That may well have been a good argument, for the few times we saw Vidmar flex and use a two-pronged attack upfront, the side seemed to put in a better show. New coach Coolen has already been working on player's strengths and weaknesses and from what we've seen so far...the side is working harder to follow their new coach's philosophy.

Putting the woeful 2009 season behind



The exciting Matthew Leckie should be prove to be handful for defenders once again this season. PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

them and looking forward, the Reds are fortunate that keeper Eugene Galekovic has not ventured or been stolen away from the club. Without doubt he was the only rock solid consistent factor that existed in the squad last season and could be relied upon. Anything that leaked through the ever-changing defence was almost guaranteed to be pulled up by the shot-stopper and was. Captain Travis Dodd had an up and down season with niggling injuries but provided fans with moments of excitement as he drifted in and out of matches. Retained for the job this season he is currently recovering from groin surgery and fans are hoping they won't be left waiting long to see the Reds captain on the pitch again. Last seasons shining light was undoubtedly striker Matthew Leckie,

the young gun with excitement plus whose runs caused fan's hearts to end up in their mouths in many a game. This kid looks the goods again this season and will cause many a backline nightmares. Couple that with the creativity of Marco Flores and Sergio Van Dijk that we have been witness to and you got a recipe for punters to be highly entertained.

United's season couldn't get much worse than their 2009/2010 finish as the wooden-spooners, the only way is up and looking at the squad on paper there is no reason why they should not be aiming for a finals berth...well SA fans have fingers-crossed that's where they'll end up!



## FAST FACTS

Year founded: 2003

Home ground: Hindmarsh Stadium

Chairman: N/A

Coach: Rini Coolen

Assistant coach: Phil Stubbins

Captain: Travis Dodd

### ARRIVALS

Nigel Boogaard (Central Coast Mariners)

Marcos Flores (Curico Unido, Chile)

Sergio Van Dijk (Brisbane Roar)

Iain Ramsay (Sydney Olympic)

### DEPARTURES

Scott Jamieson (Sydney FC)

Michael Marrone (Melbourne Heart)

Kristian Sarkies (Melbourne Heart)

Alemao (released)

Cristiano (released)

Mark Rudan (released)

### Squad list:

1.Eugene GALEKOVIC (goalkeeper)

2.Robert CORNTHWAITE (defender), 3.Nigel BOOGAARD (defender), 4.Iain FYFE (defender), 5.Daniel MULLEN (defender), 6.CASSIO (midfielder/defender), 7.Lucas PANTELIS (midfielder), 8.Adam HUGHES (midfielder), 9.Sergio VAN DIJK (forward), 10.Marcos FLORES (midfielder), 11.Lloyd OWUSU (forward), 12.Paul REID (midfielder), 13.Travis DODD (midfielder), 15.Francesco MONTEROSSO (forward), 16.Inseob SHIN (midfielder), 17.Iain RAMSAY, 18.Fabian BARBIERO (midfielder), 19.Matthew LECKIE (midfielder), 20.Mark BIRGHELLI (goalkeeper), 23.Joe COSTA (midfielder)



## A-League | The Big Kick-Off

# Meet Melbourne's new Heart-throbs

By Ian Syson

And so the latest bright and shiny A League club is ready to roll off the production line. Melbourne Heart, the team with a name that initially inspired guffaws and yet already seems to be taken seriously, will play its first competitive game against the Central Coast Mariners at AAMI Stadium on the 5th of August. Heart will have the honour of hosting the first A-League game at the 'Bubbledome', Melbourne's newest stadium.

Heart's introduction to the competition has generated a deal of anticipation. They have developed the kind of off-field presence and impact in Melbourne and country Victoria that Victory has yet to achieve even after its 5-year head-start.

Heart's advertising, marketing and community engagement is very good and probably shows the value of the competition generated by opening up a second franchise in Melbourne. It also shows how important it is for clubs to be run by soccer people and not by revenue-focused blow-ins from other codes.

The mini-coup of persuading Jon Bon Jovi to buy several high-end tickets and donate them back to the club to allow disadvantaged supporters to get to a game was impressive. Even Victory supporters have been full of begrudging admiration.

Predictably, talk of terrace chants has already started to emerge among Victory supporters. On the unofficial Melbourne Victory web forum, in a strangely obsessive 6000-post long Heart FC thread, a number of chants have been penned. Inspired by Bon Jovi, the one below is clever and deserves to be heard at the first Derby on the 2nd of October:

*Shot through the Heart,  
And you're to blame,  
You give Melbourne  
a bad name*

The Heart name is a gold mine for puns and it's not hard to imagine sub-editors rubbing their hands with glee in anticipation of the cringeworthy headlines they will produce: Heart Attack Stuns Opposition; Half-Hearted Melbourne Fails to get the Blood Pumping; Heart Bypass Midfield in search of Equaliser, Penalty Shoot-out Heartbreak, and so on.

On the field: it's hard to gauge how well Heart will go because there is so little form through which to draw a line. A narrow loss against Newcastle, a fair performance against an albeit relaxed Everton and a 9-1 hammering of Loddon Mallee Lightning don't tell us all that much. As Robbie Slater suggests, the team list looks like a fantasy football team; can they combine on the field; do they have the necessary depth?

The Everton game did provide clues however. Coach John van 't Schip had them playing a nicely structured possession game where flowing passing moves were the order of the day. Clint Bolton is still one of the best keepers in Australia. Deep in midfield, Josip Skoko was clearly the organising force for the team. Colosimo and Beauchamp did a solid job at the back marking a couple of highly credentialed forwards.

Against Everton, Heart's problems were up front. Without Aloisi they seemed a little toothless – though it remains to be seen if Aloisi is the force he once was. Sibon, a big, strong forward, worked hard and looked to impose himself but didn't seem to come close to scoring. And while they have a number of dynamic smaller players playing into the front third their chances were mea-



New kids on the block: Melbourne Heart becomes the newest addition to the HAL league. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

gre and poorly executed. In fact one of Heart's best chances on the night was a well-saved Skoko shot reminiscent of the goal he scored for the Socceroos against Greece at the MCG.

There's little doubt that Heart will see a lot of possession this season; the bottom line is how well they convert that possession into goals. Indeed, van 't Schip will be hoping a few cobwebs were blown out in the nine goals thumped in against the Lightning.

A major overarching worry for the Heart is the depth of the squad. Should a number of the relatively big names lose form or become sidelined through injury, the club will be tested.

It seems likely that Heart will have an inconsistent season, playing some of the best football in the league at times while being hopelessly outclassed at others. A number of pundits, Tim Cahill included, predict that Heart will be challenging for the title. However, I think a mid-table finish is probable – fifth at the highest (just above Victory).

## MELBOURNE HEART



## FAST FACTS

Year founded: 2009

Home ground: AAMI Park

Chairman: Peter Sidwell

Coach: John van 't Schip

Assistant coach: Ante Milicic

and Jesper Olsen

Captain: Simon Colosimo

### Squad list:

1.Clint Bolton

2.Michael Marrone

3.Brendan Hamill

4.Simon Colosimo

5.Michael Beauchamp

6.Matt Thompson

7.Rutger Worm

8.Kristian Sarkies

9.Gerald Sibon

10.Wayne Srhoj

11.Alex Terra

14.Kamal Ibrahim

15.John Aloisi

17.Jason Hoffman

18.Ante Tomic

19.Eli Babalj

20.Josip Skoko

21.Kliment Taseski

22.Nick Kalmar

23.Dean Heffernan

24.Aziz Behich



Dutch coach John van 't Schip will be expecting some hearty performances from his troops this year.

**Week 1**

Thursday, 5 August 2010 Melbourne Heart vs. Central Coast Mariners AAMI Park 7:30pm 7:30pm  
 Friday, 6 August 2010 Adelaide United vs. Newcastle Jets Hindmarsh Stadium 7:30pm 8:00pm  
 Friday, 6 August 2010 Perth Glory vs. North QLD Fury ME Bank Stadium 8:00pm 10:00pm  
 Saturday, 7 August 2010 Sydney FC vs. Melbourne Victory Sydney Football Stadium 8:00pm 8:00pm  
 Sunday, 8 August 2010 Gold Coast United vs. Brisbane Roar Skilled Park 3:00pm 3:00pm  
 Weekend Break Wellington Phoenix

**Week 2**

Friday, 13 August 2010 Wellington Phoenix vs. Gold Coast United Westpac Stadium 7:30pm 5:30pm  
 Friday, 13 August 2010 Newcastle Jets vs. Melbourne Heart EnergyAustralia Stadium 8:00pm 8:00pm  
 Saturday, 14 August 2010 North QLD Fury vs. Sydney FC Dairy Farmers Stadium 5:15pm 5:15pm  
 Saturday, 14 August 2010 Melbourne Victory vs. Perth Glory AAMI Park 7:30pm 7:30pm  
 Sunday, 15 August 2010 Central Coast Mariners vs. Adelaide United Bluetongue Stadium 3:00pm 3:00pm  
 Weekend Break Brisbane Roar

**Week 3**

Friday, 20 August 2010 Adelaide United vs. Melbourne Heart Hindmarsh Stadium 7:30pm 8:00pm  
 Saturday, 21 August 2010 Perth Glory vs. Newcastle Jets ME Bank Stadium 3:15pm 5:15pm  
 Saturday, 21 August 2010 Brisbane Roar vs. Sydney FC Suncorp Stadium 7:30pm 7:30pm  
 Sunday, 22 August 2010 Wellington Phoenix vs. Central Coast Mariners Westpac Stadium 3:00pm 1:00pm  
 Sunday, 22 August 2010 Melbourne Victory vs. North QLD Fury AAMI Park 3:00pm 3:00pm  
 Weekend Break Gold Coast United

**Week 4**

Friday, 27 August 2010 Brisbane Roar vs. Wellington Phoenix Suncorp Stadium 8:00pm 8:00pm  
 Saturday, 28 August 2010 North QLD Fury vs. Adelaide United Dairy Farmers Stadium 5:15pm 5:15pm  
 Saturday, 28 August 2010 Sydney FC vs. Central Coast Mariners Sydney Football Stadium 7:30pm 7:30pm  
 Sunday, 29 August 2010 Gold Coast United vs. Melbourne Victory Skilled Park 3:00pm 3:00pm  
 Sunday, 29 August 2010 Melbourne Heart vs. Perth Glory AAMI Park 5:00pm 5:00pm  
 Weekend Break Newcastle Jets

**Week 5**

Friday, 3 September 2010 Central Coast Mariners vs. Melbourne Victory Bluetongue Stadium 8:00pm 8:00pm  
 Saturday, 4 September 2010 Melbourne Heart vs. North QLD Fury AAMI Park 5:15pm 5:15pm  
 Saturday, 4 September 2010 Sydney FC vs. Adelaide United Sydney Football Stadium 7:30pm 7:30pm  
 Sunday, 5 September 2010 Newcastle Jets vs. Brisbane Roar EnergyAustralia Stadium 3:00pm 3:00pm  
 Sunday, 5 September 2010 Perth Glory vs. Wellington Phoenix ME Bank Stadium 3:00pm 5:00pm  
 Weekend Break Gold Coast United

**Week 6**

Friday, 10 September 2010 Central Coast Mariners vs. Melbourne Heart Bluetongue Stadium 8:00pm 8:00pm  
 Saturday, 11 September 2010 Wellington Phoenix vs. Sydney FC Westpac Stadium 7:15pm 5:15pm  
 Saturday, 11 September 2010 Adelaide United vs. Newcastle Jets Hindmarsh Stadium 7:00pm 7:30pm  
 Sunday, 12 September 2010 Melbourne Victory vs. Brisbane Roar AAMI Park 3:00pm 3:00pm  
 Sunday, 12 September 2010 Perth Glory vs. Gold Coast United ME Bank Stadium 3:00pm 5:00pm  
 Weekend Break North QLD Fury

Wednesday, 15 September 2010 Melbourne Victory vs. Wellington Phoenix AAMI Park 7:30pm 7:30pm

**Week 7**

Friday, 17 September 2010 Newcastle Jets vs. Perth Glory EnergyAustralia Stadium 8:00pm 8:00pm  
 Saturday, 18 September 2010 North QLD Fury vs. Melbourne Victory Dairy Farmers Stadium 5:15pm 5:15pm  
 Saturday, 18 September 2010 Brisbane Roar vs. Adelaide United Suncorp Stadium 7:30pm 7:30pm  
 Sunday, 19 September 2010 Melbourne Heart vs. Wellington Phoenix AAMI Park 3:00pm 3:00pm  
 Sunday, 19 September 2010 Gold Coast United vs. Central Coast Mariners Skilled Park 5:00pm 5:00pm  
 Weekend Break Sydney FC

Wednesday, 22 September 2010 Gold Coast United vs. Newcastle Jets Skilled Park 7:30pm 7:30pm

**Week 8**

Friday, 24 September 2010 Wellington Phoenix vs. North QLD Fury Westpac Stadium 7:30pm 5:30pm  
 Friday, 24 September 2010 Adelaide United vs. Perth Glory Hindmarsh Stadium 7:30pm 8:00pm  
 Saturday, 25 September 2010 Brisbane Roar vs. Melbourne Heart Suncorp Stadium 5:15pm 5:15pm  
 Saturday, 25 September 2010 Newcastle Jets vs. Melbourne Victory EnergyAustralia Stadium 7:30pm 7:30pm  
 Sunday, 26 September 2010 Sydney FC vs. Gold Coast United Sydney Football Stadium 3:00pm 3:00pm  
 Weekend Break Central Coast Mariners

Wednesday, 29 September 2010 Sydney FC vs. North QLD Fury Sydney Football Stadium 7:30pm 7:30pm

**Week 9**

Friday, 1 October 2010 Gold Coast United vs. Wellington Phoenix Skilled Park 8:00pm 8:00pm  
 Saturday, 2 October 2010 Central Coast Mariners vs. North QLD Fury Bluetongue Stadium 5:15pm 5:15pm  
 Saturday, 2 October 2010 Melbourne Heart vs. Melbourne Victory AAMI Park 7:30pm 7:30pm  
 Sunday, 3 October 2010 Perth Glory vs. Brisbane Roar ME Bank Stadium 5:00pm 7:00pm

Monday, 4 October 2010 Sydney FC vs. Adelaide United Sydney Football Stadium 5:00pm 5:00pm  
 Weekend Break Newcastle Jets

**FIFA Date Break**
**Week 10**

Friday, 15 October 2010 North QLD Fury vs. Perth Glory Dairy Farmers Stadium 7:30pm 8:30pm  
 Saturday, 16 October 2010 Melbourne Victory vs. Sydney FC Etihad Stadium 7:00pm 7:00pm  
 Saturday, 16 October 2010 Brisbane Roar vs. Newcastle Jets Suncorp Stadium 8:15pm 9:15pm  
 Sunday, 17 October 2010 Wellington Phoenix vs. Melbourne Heart Westpac Stadium 5:00pm 3:00pm  
 Sunday, 17 October 2010 Gold Coast United vs. Adelaide United Skilled Park 4:00pm 5:00pm  
 Weekend Break Central Coast Mariners

Wednesday, 20 October 2010 Brisbane Roar vs. Central Coast Mariners Suncorp Stadium 7:00pm 8:00pm

**Week 11**

Friday, 22 October 2010 Adelaide United vs. Wellington Phoenix Hindmarsh Stadium 7:30pm 8:00pm  
 Saturday, 23 October 2010 Melbourne Heart vs. Gold Coast United AAMI Park 7:00pm 7:00pm  
 Saturday, 23 October 2010 Brisbane Roar vs. Melbourne Victory Suncorp Stadium 8:15pm 9:15pm  
 Sunday, 24 October 2010 Perth Glory vs. Sydney FC ME Bank Stadium 4:00pm 7:00pm

Wednesday, 27 October 2010 Newcastle Jets vs. North QLD Fury EnergyAustralia Stadium 7:30pm 7:30pm  
 Weekend Break Central Coast Mariners

**Week 12**

Saturday, 30 October 2010 Central Coast Mariners vs. Perth Glory Sydney Football Stadium 3:45pm 3:45pm  
 Saturday, 30 October 2010 Sydney FC vs. Brisbane Roar Sydney Football Stadium 6:00pm 6:00pm  
 Saturday, 30 October 2010 Melbourne Victory vs. Adelaide United Etihad Stadium 8:15pm 8:15pm  
 Sunday, 31 October 2010 Newcastle Jets vs. Melbourne Heart EnergyAustralia Stadium 3:00pm 3:00pm  
 Sunday, 31 October 2010 North QLD Fury vs. Gold Coast United Dairy Farmers Stadium 5:00pm 5:00pm  
 Weekend Break Wellington Phoenix

Wednesday, 3 November 2010 Wellington Phoenix vs. Brisbane Roar Westpac Stadium 7:30pm 5:30pm

Wednesday, 3 November 2010 Perth Glory vs. Melbourne Heart ME Bank Stadium 7:00pm 10:00pm

**Week 13**

Friday, 5 November 2010 North QLD Fury vs. Central Coast Mariners Dairy Farmers Stadium 7:30pm 8:30pm  
 Saturday, 6 November 2010 Melbourne Victory vs. Gold Coast United Etihad Stadium 7:00pm 7:00pm  
 Saturday, 6 November 2010 Brisbane Roar vs. Adelaide United Suncorp Stadium 8:15pm 9:15pm  
 Sunday, 7 November 2010 Sydney FC vs. Newcastle Jets Sydney Football Stadium 5:00pm 5:00pm  
 Sunday, 7 November 2010 Perth Glory vs. Wellington Phoenix ME Bank Stadium 4:00pm 7:00pm  
 Weekend Break Melbourne Heart

Wednesday, 10 November 2010 Adelaide United vs. Perth Glory Hindmarsh Stadium 6:30pm 7:00pm

Wednesday, 10 November 2010 North QLD Fury vs. Melbourne Heart Dairy Farmers Stadium 8:00pm 9:00pm

**Week 14**

Friday, 12 November 2010 Gold Coast United vs. Sydney FC Skilled Park 7:30pm 8:30pm  
 Saturday, 13 November 2010 Wellington Phoenix vs. Central Coast Mariners Westpac Stadium 7:30pm 5:30pm  
 Saturday, 13 November 2010 Newcastle Jets vs. Adelaide United EnergyAustralia Stadium 7:45pm 7:45pm  
 Sunday, 14 November 2010 Melbourne Heart vs. Brisbane Roar AAMI Park 5:00pm 5:00pm  
 Sunday, 14 November 2010 Perth Glory vs. Melbourne Victory ME Bank Stadium 4:00pm 7:00pm  
 Weekend Break North QLD Fury

Wednesday, 17 November 2010 Newcastle Jets vs. Brisbane Roar EnergyAustralia Stadium 7:30pm 7:30pm

Thursday, 18 November 2010 Melbourne Victory vs. Central Coast Mariners AAMI Park 7:30pm 7:30pm

**Week 15**

Friday, 19 November 2010 Melbourne Heart vs. Adelaide United AAMI Park 8:00pm 8:00pm  
 Saturday, 20 November 2010 Newcastle Jets vs. Wellington Phoenix EnergyAustralia Stadium 7:00pm 7:00pm  
 Saturday, 20 November 2010 Brisbane Roar vs. North QLD Fury Suncorp Stadium 8:15pm 9:15pm  
 Sunday, 21 November 2010 Central Coast Mariners vs. Gold Coast United Bluetongue Stadium 5:00pm 5:00pm  
 Weekend Break Melbourne Victory

Wednesday, 24 November 2010 Wellington Phoenix vs. Melbourne Heart Westpac Stadium 7:30pm 5:30pm

Wednesday, 24 November 2010 Central Coast Mariners vs. Brisbane Roar Bluetongue Stadium 7:30pm 7:30pm

**Week 16**

Friday, 26 November 2010 Adelaide United vs. Gold Coast United Hindmarsh Stadium 7:30pm 8:00pm  
 Saturday, 27 November 2010 Wellington Phoenix vs. Melbourne Victory Westpac Stadium 6:00pm 4:00pm  
 Saturday, 27 November 2010 Newcastle Jets vs. Central Coast Mariners EnergyAustralia Stadium 6:00pm 6:00pm  
 Saturday, 27 November 2010 Melbourne Heart vs. Sydney FC AAMI Park 8:15pm 8:15pm  
 Sunday, 28 November 2010 North QLD Fury vs. Perth Glory Dairy Farmers Stadium 5:00pm 6:00pm  
 Weekend Break Brisbane Roar

Wednesday, 1 December 2010 Sydney FC vs. Wellington Phoenix Sydney Football Stadium 7:00pm 7:00pm

Wednesday, 1 December 2010 Gold Coast United vs. North QLD Fury Skilled Park 8:00pm 9:00pm

**Week 17**

Friday, 3 December 2010 Melbourne Victory vs. Brisbane Roar AAMI Park 8:00pm 8:00pm  
 Saturday, 4 December 2010 Central Coast Mariners vs. Sydney FC Bluetongue Stadium 7:00pm 7:00pm  
 Saturday, 4 December 2010 North QLD Fury vs. Newcastle Jets Dairy Farmers Stadium 8:15pm 9:15pm  
 Sunday, 5 December 2010 Wellington Phoenix vs. Adelaide United Westpac Stadium 5:00pm 3:00pm  
 Sunday, 5 December 2010 Gold Coast United vs. Melbourne Heart Skilled Park 4:00pm 5:00pm  
 Weekend Break Perth Glory

Wednesday, 8 December 2010 Melbourne Heart vs. Newcastle Jets AAMI Park 7:00pm 7:00pm

Wednesday, 8 December 2010 Brisbane Roar vs. Perth Glory Suncorp Stadium 8:00pm 9:00pm

**Week 18**

Friday, 10 December 2010 Adelaide United vs. North QLD Fury Hindmarsh Stadium 7:30pm 8:00pm  
 Saturday, 11 December 2010 Melbourne Heart vs. Melbourne Victory AAMI Park 7:00pm 7:00pm  
 Saturday, 11 December 2010 Gold Coast United vs. Wellington Phoenix Skilled Park 8:15pm 9:15pm  
 Sunday, 12 December 2010 Sydney FC vs. Brisbane Roar Sydney Football Stadium 5:00pm 5:00pm  
 Sunday, 12 December 2010 Perth Glory vs. Central Coast Mariners ME Bank Stadium 5:00pm 8:00pm  
 Weekend Break Newcastle Jets

Wednesday, 15 December 2010 Newcastle Jets vs. Gold Coast United EnergyAustralia Stadium 7:00pm 7:00pm

Wednesday, 15 December 2010 North QLD Fury vs. Sydney FC Dairy Farmers Stadium 8:00pm 9:00pm

**Week 19**

Friday, 17 December 2010 Adelaide United vs. Melbourne Heart Hindmarsh Stadium 7:30pm 8:00pm  
 Saturday, 18 December 2010 Wellington Phoenix vs. Newcastle Jets AMI Stadium, Christchurch 7:00pm 5:00pm  
 Saturday, 18 December 2010 Melbourne Victory vs. Perth Glory AAMI Park 7:00pm 7:00pm  
 Saturday, 18 December 2010 North QLD Fury vs. Brisbane Roar Dairy Farmers Stadium 8:15pm 9:15pm  
 Sunday, 19 December 2010 Gold Coast United vs. Central Coast Mariners Skilled Park 4:00pm 5:00pm  
 Weekend Break Sydney FC

Wednesday, 22 December 2010 Central Coast Mariners vs. North QLD Fury Bluetongue Stadium 7:30pm 7:30pm

Wednesday, 22 December 2010 Perth Glory vs. Adelaide United ME Bank Stadium 7:00pm 10:00pm

**Week 20**

Thursday, 23 December 2010 Sydney FC vs. Melbourne Heart Sydney Football Stadium 7:00pm 7:00pm  
 Sunday, 26 December 2010 Central Coast Mariners vs. Adelaide United Bluetongue Stadium 5:00pm 5:00pm  
 Sunday, 26 December 2010 Brisbane Roar vs. Gold Coast United Suncorp Stadium 6:15pm 7:15pm  
 Monday, 27 December 2010 Melbourne Victory vs. Newcastle Jets AAMI Park 6:00pm 6:00pm  
 Monday, 27 December 2010 North QLD Fury vs. Wellington Phoenix Dairy Farmers Stadium 7:15pm 8:15pm  
 Weekend Break Perth Glory

Wednesday, 29 December 2010 Adelaide United vs. Sydney FC Adelaide Oval 7:30pm 8:00pm

**Week 21**

Friday, 31 December 2010 Central Coast Mariners vs. Melbourne Victory Bluetongue Stadium 6:00pm 6:00pm  
 Sunday, 2 January 2011 Melbourne Heart vs. North QLD Fury AAMI Park 5:00pm 5:00pm  
 Sunday, 2 January 2011 Adelaide United vs. Brisbane Roar Hindmarsh Stadium 6:30pm 7:00pm  
 Monday, 3 January 2011 Newcastle Jets vs. Sydney FC EnergyAustralia Stadium 5:00pm 5:00pm  
 Monday, 3 January 2011 Gold Coast United vs. Perth Glory Skilled Park 6:00pm 7:00pm  
 Weekend Break Wellington Phoenix

Wednesday, 5 January 2011 Wellington Phoenix vs. Melbourne Victory Westpac Stadium 7:30pm 5:30pm

**Week 22**

Friday, 7 January 2011 Brisbane Roar vs. Perth Glory Suncorp Stadium 7:30pm 8:30pm  
 Saturday, 8 January 2011 Sydney FC vs. Gold Coast United Sydney Football Stadium 7:00pm 7:00pm  
 Saturday, 8 January 2011 North QLD Fury vs. Newcastle Jets Dairy Farmers Stadium 8:15pm 9:15pm  
 Sunday, 9 January 2011 Melbourne Victory vs. Adelaide United Etihad Stadium 3:00pm 3:00pm  
 Sunday, 9 January 2011 Central Coast Mariners vs. Wellington Phoenix Bluetongue Stadium 5:00pm 5:00pm  
 Weekend Break Melbourne Heart

Wednesday, 12 January 2011 Central Coast Mariners vs. Brisbane Roar Bluetongue Stadium 7:30pm 7:30pm

**Week 23**

Friday, 14 January 2011 Gold Coast United vs. North QLD Fury Skilled Park 7:30pm 8:30pm  
 Saturday, 15 January 2011 Sydney FC vs. Melbourne Victory Sydney Football Stadium 7:30pm 7:30pm  
 Saturday, 15 January 2011 Perth Glory vs. Melbourne Heart ME Bank Stadium 6:45pm 9:45pm  
 Sunday, 16 January 2011 Newcastle Jets vs. Central Coast Mariners EnergyAustralia Stadium 5:00pm 5:00pm  
 Sunday, 16 January 2011 Brisbane Roar vs. Wellington Phoenix Suncorp Stadium 6:00pm 7:00pm  
 Weekend Break Adelaide United

Wednesday, 19 January 2011 Melbourne Heart vs. Gold Coast United AAMI Park 8:00pm 8:00pm

Wednesday, 19 January 2011 Perth Glory vs. Central Coast Mariners ME Bank Stadium 7:00pm 10:00pm

**Week 24**

Friday, 21 January 2011 Adelaide United vs. North QLD Fury Hindmarsh Stadium 7:30pm 8:00pm  
 Saturday, 22 January 2011 Melbourne Victory vs. Melbourne Heart Etihad Stadium 7:00pm 7:00pm  
 Saturday, 22 January 2011 Gold Coast United vs. Newcastle Jets Skilled Park 8:15pm 9:15pm  
 Sunday, 23 January 2011 Wellington Phoenix vs. Perth Glory Westpac Stadium 5:00pm 3:00pm  
 Sunday, 23 January 2011 Central Coast Mariners vs. Sydney FC Bluetongue Stadium 5:00pm 5:00pm  
 Weekend Break Brisbane Roar

Wednesday, 26 January 2011 North QLD Fury vs. Melbourne Victory Dairy Farmers Stadium 7:00pm 8:00pm

**Week 25**

Friday, 28 January 2011 Brisbane Roar vs. Melbourne Heart Suncorp Stadium 7:30pm 8:30pm  
 Saturday, 29 January 2011 Adelaide United vs. Central Coast Mariners Hindmarsh Stadium 7:00pm 7:30pm  
 Saturday, 29 January 2011 Perth Glory vs. Sydney FC ME Bank Stadium 6:45pm 9:45pm  
 Sunday, 30 January 2011 Wellington Phoenix vs. Newcastle Jets Westpac Stadium 5:00pm 3:00pm  
 Sunday, 30 January 2011 Melbourne Victory vs. Gold Coast United AAMI Park 5:00pm 5:00pm  
 Weekend Break North QLD Fury

Wednesday, 2 February 2011 Melbourne Victory vs. Newcastle Jets AAMI Park 7:00pm 7:00pm

Wednesday, 2 February 2011 Gold Coast United vs. Adelaide United Skilled Park 8:00pm 9:00pm



# KAT'S CORNER

**Sydney Football Festival**  
**Sydney fans should hang their heads in shame after snubbing the Festival of Football extravaganza.**

Three quality foreign clubs and Sydney FC took part in a four-team round-robin tournament over three match days this week.

Scottish champion Rangers, England's Blackburn Rovers and AEK Athens of Greece honoured us by choosing Australia as the main point of their pre-season.

However Sydney's fans unfortunately did not get too excited about the big event that served as a valuable pre-season exercise for all competing teams.

A poor turnout of 14,000 on match day one, 9000 on match day two and 15,000 on match day three would have left organisers shaking their heads in disbelief and wondering if it was worth bringing over such quality teams.

Even though the midweek round was marred by terrible weather conditions, there is simply no excuse for Sydney's snub especially when one considers that the cheapest adult ticket for any match day was \$29. That's two movie tickets, for goodness sake.

I mean, what did fans expect to get for \$29 ... Real Madrid versus Barcelona?! I went to every game and the opening matches, and I was a guest of the NSW government that sponsored the event. It was not impressive and I wonder if the tournament will be staged next season.

But one thing that I will point out, who organised the 12.45 kick off last Sunday

while all the teams are playing federation football the same time? Surely a 6.00 pm kick off is more appropriate. Get me in that organizing committee as the consultant and I'll sort it out pronto!

**Sydney FC Socceroo Membership Well, I must congratulate Sydney FC for the gesture to honour all former Socceroo players and head coaches that reside in NSW with a membership to Sydney FC .**

"we believe without your contribution to the game , we as a club, and the game in Australia would not be where it is today " the letter reads.

Well, on behalf of all the former players and coaches thank you to all the people at Sydney FC for the acknowledgement. We need more of gestures like this from all the clubs and football bodies to embrace our past and bring people together, as I'm sure football in Australia will benefit.

So I'm getting ready to be presented to the crowd next weekend in the blockbuster opener between Sydney FC and Melbourne Victory, I just only wish I could still bring my boots!

#### A-League kick off

**Our premier competition is back and up and running, and I believe it will be the best ever.**

There is so much movement by all teams to strengthen their squads in the quest to win the title from last year's winners, Sydney FC.

New boys Melbourne Heart have recruit-

ed well, both at coaching and player level, so they are not going to be a push over and we have many new faces including Graham Arnold at the Mariners, that we are waiting to see what he can do as a coach at a club second time round.

Phoenix will be strong, Sydney FC will be there again especially with Nick Carle in their team, and I'm sure Melbourne Victory don't want to play second fiddle again. Adelaide looked good in the Asian Champions League, Perth Glory have the Fowler Factor, Ange Postecoglou will have a great chance to prove himself this season and shut the critics up, I hope Gold Coast can keep exciting us with their exciting Miron Bleiberg style, Newcastle Jets with their exciting Iranian Ali Baas should be worth watching too. I hope we see attacking and exciting football and teams not afraid to have a go - not just happy with getting a scoreless draw away from home. Have a go you never know. Let the games begin!

#### Smeltz's backflip a valuable lesson for players

**It seemingly took Shane Smeltz just five days to realise Jinan, 400km south of Beijing, wasn't going to be as homely as the Gold Coast, turning his back on a two-year deal with Chinese Super League club Shandong Luneng and returning to Australia for what's expected to be a quick comeback.**

Smeltz's concerns about whether his young family could settle in the region forced a rapid change of heart.

If that's the case, credit to Smeltz for put-

**Australian international with 25 caps, Australian Player of the Year, winner of 4 NSL championships, 3 NSL Cups, 557 first grade games, 97 goals from 1976-1996. Played for St George, Sydney Olympic, Apia, Marconi, Melita Eagles and Larissa (Greece). Rated as one of the most technically gifted players ever produced in Australia. Now involved with player development and player management. [www.technikfootball.com](http://www.technikfootball.com)**



Top quality football action at the Sydney Festival of Football. But where were the crowds? PHOTO: GEOFF JONES

commit to a move. The dollars can be tempting, but they need to appreciate the cultural and social differences in Asia.

Smeltz's return to Australia also reinforces one of the great selling points for the league when trying to attract players down under.

Even if A-League clubs can't compete with the dollars on offer throughout Asia and elsewhere, the lifestyle afforded to players, be they foreigners or locals, is an attraction in itself. Just ask Dwight Yorke!

See you next week

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**Let it not be said that this column is afraid to make big statements. I firmly believe that if Glenn Hoddle and Chris Waddle had continued with their musical careers they could almost have been as good as Hall and Oates.**

Meanwhile we still wait from some sort of statement from the FFV regarding a course of action following last week's "lights out" game at Dandenong. They are probably still wondering which of the conflicting recent precedents they should follow.

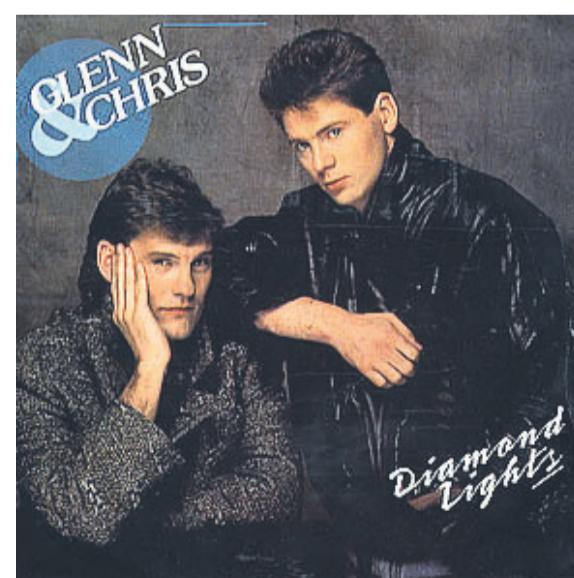
Perhaps they will come up with something really innovative, like the Victorian British Football Association did back in 1910. On July 23rd, a day of terrible weather, Carlton and Melbourne clashed, both teams fielding unregistered players to make up numbers. So the 7-1

triumph to reigning champions Carlton was declared unofficial. When the teams were scheduled to meet in the reverse fixture, the governing body decided that it would be easier to make that game worth four points (kids, in the old days it was two points a win, one for a draw) rather than rescheduling the earlier fixture. Perhaps we need to cut them some slack, because if you look back through history many abandoned or postponed games were never able to be replayed as there were no lights (as in at all, not even for half a game) for midweek matches and once spring arrived the cricket clubs reclaimed the grounds. But a strange ruling nonetheless.

So the new A-League season commences this week. You may have seen the ads, where Victory fans steal bedsheets for material to make banners and flags. Some people have criti-

## BOO'S WORLD

With Mark Boric



Diamond Lights?

Maybe not at Thunder's ground...



## TSIGAN'S TSIGAR

With Mike Lilikakis

## ABOMINATIONS AND REVELATIONS

## What's wrong with this picture?

Professional soccer player Bruno Fernandes -- Brazilian native and goalkeeper of Brazil's extremely popular club, Rio de Janeiro's Flamengo -- turned himself in to police when an official arrest warrant was issued for him nearly a month after the disappearance of his former lover, Eliza Samudio. Police are reporting that Samudio, a former girlfriend of Fernandes, was strangled and then fed to dogs.

Fernandes, 25, continues to deny any wrongdoing in accordance with the situation.

However, homicide investigator, Edson Moreira, reported that Fernandes acted like a monster and is culpable: "Bruno was there and he saw how the woman was completely broken," he said. "According to witnesses he accompanied Eliza to her sacrifice and to her death."

Police are also reporting that Fernandes' teenage cousin provided evidence to link the goalkeeper to Samudio's kidnap and alleged murder. Other suspects and parties are also siding with the cousin's story.

There seems to be a strong motive behind the situation. Samudio has said that Fernandes -- who is married to another woman -- was the father of her baby. According to various sources, Samudio was enticed or possibly kidnapped and taken to the country pad of Fernandes at Belo Horizonte. Apparently, while his wife looked after the 4month old infant, up to eight friends of Fernandes including a police officer, assaulted and then strangled Samudio. She was then reportedly cut up and fed to dogs, with the rest of her body buried somewhere under concrete.

Fernandes, who served as the captain of Rio de Janeiro's Flamengo, had his contract suspended by the club. Furthermore, the team's lawyer will no longer defend the Brazilian goalkeeper.

Fernandes has played for Flamengo since 2006 and won the Brazilian league championship for the club just one year ago.

Whilst I can barely contain my disbelief and anger at such barbarity, the question that rings around in my head is how anyone could believe they can get away with any scandal, with the media, CSI and Matlock only getting better with technological advancements. People who are in the public eye are under constant scrutiny and surely have to wake up and realise that they are no longer their 'own', but owned.

Lets have a gander at some other pig foder.

Brazil's Ronaldo is one of the greatest players to kick a soccer ball in history, but in 2008 he was caught playing with



Dutchman Frank Rijkaard, The Llama, spits at German striker Rudi Völler during the 1990 World Cup

a different type of balls when he became embroiled in a sex scandal involving two transvestite prostitutes (pictured left). Though he will always be remembered for his soccer feats, the scandal has damaged his public image. Ronaldo was recovering from knee surgery in Rio de Janeiro when he decided to go out and get some prostitutes (which isn't illegal in Brazil). But, the "ladies" of the night Ronaldo picked up turned out to be men and tried to blackmail the star. He alerted the authorities and tried to keep it quiet, but the media was all over it.

One of the prostitutes said that Ronaldo had done drugs with them (which is illegal) before he realized they were men. The police looked into the affair, but eventually determined Ronaldo had not done anything illegal (just immoral). Though no charges were filed against the star, his reputation was badly tarnished. Ronaldo lost many endorsement deals as a result of the incident, and the three-time FIFA World Player of the Year and two-time World Cup winner was humiliated by the world media. The scandal's most lasting legacy for me is that it has provided me with an endless supply of jokes about Ronaldo playing with balls. Thank you ladies... er, guys.

## OWSABOUTVISGUV'NA?

Look, I don't want the rest of your time wasted reading about the sideline issues this week, but rather, here's a quick jab at the "onfield" stuff of life.

## John TERRY, ENGLAND

## 2010 World Cup, South Africa

After a disastrous first two games in

which England tied 1-1 with the U.S.A. and 0-0 with Algeria, defender John Terry held a press conference criticizing manager Fabio Capello.

Terry, who months before had been stripped of the captaincy following a sex scandal, attempted to push Capello to the sidelines and become player-manager of the team.

Egged on by a scandal-hungry tabloid press, Terry complained of boredom in the squad, bad training routines, and Capello's authoritarian style of leadership.

He also argued for the inclusion of his Chelsea team mate Joe Cole in the upcoming game against Slovenia.

Capello retaliated by saying Terry had made a very big mistake.

No players came to Terry's defence and he was forced to backpeddle furiously, not even uttering a squeak to Capello. Terry's mutiny of one lasted less than a day as Capello reasserted his authority over the squad. England and the U.S.A. failed to reach the last 8 after crashing out to Germany and Ghana respectively.

## Diego MARADONA, ARGENTINA

## 1986, Mexico and 1994, U.S.A. World Cups

Maradona has the dubious honor of being involved in at least two World Cup scandals.

In 1986, against the background of the Falklands War between Argentina and the United Kingdom, England played in the quarter finals against Argentina, losing 2-1 with both of Argetina's goals scored by Maradona.

Replays show that Maradona's first goal was scored by striking the ball with his

hand.

Maradona evaded accusation by describing the goal as a little with the hand of Maradona and a little with the hand of God.

It became known as the Hand of God goal.

Eight years later at the 1994 FIFA World Cup, Maradona played in only two games, scoring one goal against Greece, before being sent home after failing a drug test for ephedrine.

## Ry KEANE, EIRE

## 2002 World Cup in Korea &amp; Japan

At the 2002 World Cup in Korea, fiery and outspoken Irishman Roy Keane complained bitterly about Ireland's training facilities and hotel.

In a 10-minute tirade directed at coach Mick McCarthy, he told him: Mick, you're a liar... you're a f\*\*\*\*\* w\*\*\*\*\*. I didn't rate you as a player, I don't rate you as a manager, and I don't rate you as a person....and you can stick your World Cup up your a\*\*e. The only reason I have any dealings with you is that somehow you are the manager of my country! You can stick it up your b\*\*\*\*\*s.

McCarthy had little choice but to send Keane home.

To this day, Keane does not regret his outburst, nor the disruptive effect it had on the Irish squad.

## Frank RIJKAARD, HOLLAND

## 1990 World Cup in Italy

Rijkaard was involved in an unpleasant incident with Rudi Völler when West Germany played the Netherlands in the 1990 World Cup.

Rijkaard was booked for a bad tackle on

## Tsigan Rolls One Up from the Central Coast!

Völler. As Rijkaard took up position for the free kick he spat in Völler's hair. Völler complained to the referee and was booked as well.

From the resulting free kick, Völler then dived, which angered Rijkaard. Rijkaard confronted Völler by twisting his ear and stamping on his foot.

Both Völler and Rijkaard were sent off. Rijkaard again spat in Völler's hair as they left the pitch.

The German press nicknamed him Llamafor his spitting.

## Zinedine ZIDANE, FRANCE

## 2006 World Cup in Germany

In the final of the 2006 World Cup, French star Zinedine Zidane was sent off in extra-time after headbutting Italian Marco Materazzi.

Materazzi uttered an insulting remark about a female member of Zidane's family. Zidane lost his cool and hit Materazzi with his head.

He was sent off and did not participate in the penalty shootout, which Italy won 5-3. Zidane later said he would rather die than apologize to Materazzi.

## Nicolas ANELKA, FRANCE

## 2010 World Cup in South Africa

When France won the 1998 World Cup, they were seen as a model of multi-cultural melding. The team was made up of stars with roots in north and west Africa, as well as France.

In 2010, it was a completely different picture. The team came to the World Cup in South Africa unwilling to train or be coached. The squad hated their coach, Raymond Domenech, and it was ruled by the massive egos of players like Nicolas Anelka.

Anelka was at the heart of a French player revolt against Domenech. He was sent home after verbally abusing the French coach, telling him: Go f\*\*\* yourself, you dirty son of a whore!

This prompted a player strike that lasted a day.

In France, the team was denounced for its unruly behavior with two major companies -- the bank Credit Agricole SA and fast-food chain Quick -- suspending advertising campaigns featuring the national soccer team.

President Nicolas Sarkozy criticized the players, saying Anelka's outburst was unacceptable.

France failed to progress beyond the group stage of the competition. In their last group game, they lost 1-2 to South Africa, with captain Patrice Evra dropped from the side.

Back to the pumpink nickel, I got a whole lotta love and her name is KFC Country Bucket.

## AB OVO

## USQ AD MALA

## Puahahahaha

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## IN OFF THE POST

mailbag@goalweekly.com



Dear Sir,

While I sympathise with the 5-1 result they suffered over the weekend, and taking nothing away from the Northcote City performance, let me please state that I am not a Heidelberg United fan, but rather, just a simple football fan.

The reason I write this letter is that I was utterly dismayed by the refereeing standard that ruined a game that should have been billed as the VPL Match of the Day.

Due to age and distance I don't go to many VPL games as much anymore and try to keep up with things through your paper.

However, as the sun broke through the winter blues on Saturday, I decided to venture out and try and make the most of my day by watching a VPL game.

Unfortunately, it didn't take long before the referee destroyed what should have been a great local derby between two of the storied

teams in this year's competition by sending off not one, but two Heidelberg players within the first quarter of an hour in the match.

I was actually behind the goals where the first incident took place and I'm still trying to figure out how on earth the referee managed to pick out one of the players for a straight red card when the whole penalty box of players were pushing and shoving in anticipation for a corner.

If there was indeed an infringement, surely a yellow card and a stern warning would have been enough punishment so early in the contest.

Throughout the game there was a smattering of inconsistent refereeing decisions.

There were also numerous challenges that could be argued deserved a red card as well, especially if the precedent was set by the other two dismissals issued by

the ref.

I write this letter for the benefit that someone with the powers that be might actually read this and take note.

I even overheard a number of spectators behind me also express their disbelief at what we were witnessing.

Do referees not know how to use common sense anymore? Where is their display of experience?

Anyway, if this is the sort of standard that is acceptable in officiating crucial games at the business end of the season, or any other VPL game for that matter, then I'd prefer to waste my time some other way.

Any person with half a football brain would realise that the contest was spoiled by the referee.

Maybe he watched one too many World Cup games over the past month or so.

I. MacKinnon, Box Hill, VIC

Dear GW,

Can someone please explain to me why millions of dollars was spent on building a new soccer stadium on Swan Street (AAMI Stadium) when two games were played at Etihad Stadium (Melbourne Heart v Everton and Melbourne Victory v Boca Juniors), which is a AFL ground with a poor quality playing surface?

D. Gardner, Hampton Park, VIC

Dear GW,

Just wanted to say well done to Eddie Krncevic for that article in this week's issue (7 Ways to Improve Premier League Clubs). An absolute beauty and so so relevant for the NSWPL clubs as well.

E. Reynolds, Chatswood, NSW

Goal! Weekly. The plain bloody truth is all written there! Congratulations for having the balls to actually say something about it. Long overdue.

LM, Elwood, VIC

Dear Ed,

Thank you for your public apology in this week's edition of Goal Weekly. I appreciate your prompt response and taking up your responsibilities to the readership. This really shows the integrity of your paper and your commitment to its respectability.

In Sport,  
Charlie Buttigieg

PALACE  
CINEMAS



## Couch Potato Dept.

\* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT



Monday August 2nd, 2010

4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial - Weekly magazine show that travels the globe to bring you the stars of today, the talents of tomorrow and the heroes of the past.

11:30 pm The World Game - Presented by David Basheer and Craig Foster. Non-stop news, views, reviews, highlights, features and profiles on football from around the world plus all the results and news from the major competitions and tournaments. Includes commentary from current and former players.

Sunday August 8th, 2010

10:30 am Football Asia - Provides the latest news and updates of the various football leagues across Asia

11:00 am Les Murray's Football Feature

12:00 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial - Weekly magazine show that travels the globe to bring you the stars of today, the talents of tomorrow and the heroes of the past.

**FOX SPORTS**

English Premier League  
WEEK 1

Sat Aug 14 Tottenham v Manchester City 9.40 pm  
Sat Aug 14 Aston Villa v West Ham 11.55 pm  
Sat Aug 14 Blackburn v Everton 11.55 pm Viewers Choice  
Sat Aug 14 Blackpool v Wigan 11.55 pm Viewers Choice  
Sat Aug 14 Bolton v Fulham 11.55 pm Viewers Choice  
Sat Aug 14 S'land v Birmingham 11.55 pm Viewers Choice  
Sun Aug 15 Chelsea v West Brom 2.25 am  
Sun Aug 15 Wolves v Stoke 7.30 pm (DELAY)  
Sun Aug 16 Liverpool v Arsenal 12.55 am  
Sun Aug 17 Manchester United v Newcastle 4.55 am

\* Game not being shown LIVE is Wolves v Stoke

Catch the  
Futbol Town Show  
every Monday 7pm  
on C31

**FUTSAL OZ TV**

**WAG OF THE WEEK**



Sara Carbonero Age: 24

Insignificant Other: Real Madrid and Spain keeper,  
Iker Casillas.



The Futbol Town Show  
Every Monday 7pm

Extra Time Magazine Show  
Every Wednesday 8pm



SMFC TV  
Channel 31  
Every Saturday 10.00am

The Green Gully Football Show  
Every Saturday 10.30am



Global Football Show  
Jacob Kagi and Ian Hooper  
discusses local, national and international football every Thursday  
night from 7.30-9pm on  
WA's SportFM 91.3.



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# Pepe Cubero, Spanish superstar

Jose Marin Cubero, always known as Pepe, was one of the brightest stars of Victorian football in the 1950s. Born in Huelva, near Seville, in 1930, he had to grow up fast when his father was imprisoned during the Spanish Civil War for speaking out against Franco. He supported his family working as a brickie's labourer but very quickly showed his skill as a footballer. He played in the third division with Puerto Real, the Andalusian champions, and then in the second division with Recreativo Huelva. In 1956 he emigrated to Australia, where he was snapped up by JUST.

What an immediate impact he had on arrival in Victoria. On Saturday 14 April 1956, JUST beat Footscray City by six goals to three at Como Park and Pepe Cubero scored four of them. Soccer News was in raptures about 'Victoria's newest star, handsome Spaniard Jose Cubero.' He was immediately added to the Victorian state squad. Next week the paper referred to him as the 'sparkling Spaniard.'

The JUST team was Emio Lucian, Scipione, Schafer, Vince Muscat, Jakus, Tony Vella, Pepe Cubero, Zgalin, Folk, Peter Vidovic, Brunnbauer. Brunnbauer and Tony Vella scored the other goals for JUST.

In those days Pepe Cubero played as an inside forward, but he was really a classical goal-scoring playmaker, a 'number 10', like Maradona. JUST finished the year in mid-table but only five points behind the all-powerful Juventus.

In 1956, Melbourne hosted the Olympic Games and Cubero was one of the many recent immigrants who was denied selection though his talents warranted it. He won the Argus Medal, the predecessor of the present Gold Medal as the best individual player in the state. Actually the medal was shared that year, as Cubero and veteran Scottish defender Bob Wemyss each received 27 votes.

JUST won the First Division by four points in 1957, ending a run of five championships by Juventus. Cubero scored his share of goals but set up many more.

In 1958, the first year of the State League, Pepe Cubero

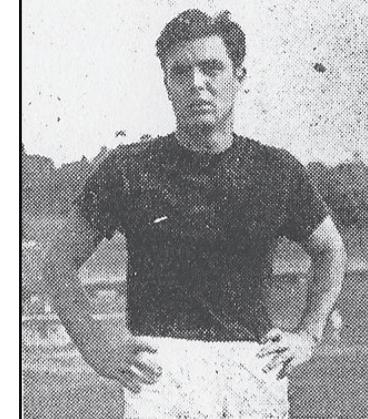
## GOAL TO J.U.S.T.



Strenuous efforts by Brydson and Darling, of Footscray, failed to stem this J.U.S.T. attack, which accounted for one of their six goals last Saturday. Brunnbauer (foreground) and Victoria's newest star, handsome Spaniard Jose Cubero, combined effectively to net this one.

'Goal to JUST', Soccer News, 21 April 1956, p. 3.

## NEW STAR



Jose Cubero

This handsome, well-built Spaniard has greatly impressed every good judge of soccer who has seen him play at inside right for J.U.S.T. His calm, shrewd anticipation, and dexterity add class of a very high order to his club's attack.

'New Star', Soccer News, 28 April 1956, p. 1.

moved to Juventus and helped them to the title. He continued with Juventus in 1959 as it finished third and 1960, when he scored a goal against Melbourne, but then the cross-bar broke with Melbourne leading two-one after an hour, and the game was awarded to Melbourne. In 1961 Juventus slumped to fourth from the bottom of the league, despite Cubero's best efforts and several goals.

In 1962 he joined George Cross assisting the club to fourth place in State League only four points behind South Melbourne Hellas who took the honours. The following year he joined Triestina in Division One South and his influence was once again vital as Triestina won the league by six points losing only a single game.

It has proved impossible to find a complete list of his representative honours, but Pepe Cubero played for Australia against Heart of Midlothian in 1959 and had at least three other caps including games against the Eastern Athletic touring team from Hong Kong and FK Austria from Vienna in 1957, while he turned out at least ten times for Victoria.

His family are very sad that he passed away just before Spain won the World Cup final. I appreciate their assistance in putting together this tribute to one of the finest players of his era in Australian football.

## First Division Champions 1957



Here are the Sun Cup and First Division Champions of 1957 — J.U.S.T. — after winning their first senior League pennant. From left to right they are (back row) — Benny Bon (trainer), Pepe Cubero, Peter Vidovic (captain), George Bakic, Bob Strahan, Frank Nemeth, Joe Jakus, then (front row) Lolly Vella, Luja Gunzl, Emio Lucian, Josef Brenner, and Tony Vella.

JUST as First Division champion in 1957, the last year before the start of the State League. Pepe Cubero stands 2nd from the left in the back row. Soccer News.

## Serbia

It was a good week for Serbian football in continental competition, three excellent results out of four. Partizan will take a 3:0 lead going into the return leg in Finland as they easily dispatched HJK Helsinki in Champions League qualifying. Ivica Ilic marked his return to the club with a fantastic performance and was rewarded with the opening goal, Sasa Ilic netted the second while Brazilian Cleo scored a cracker from 25 yards out.

Spartak Subutica shocked Ukrainian league leaders Dnipro with a 2:1 win in Novi Sad. Captain Vladimir Torbica scored both of the goals from the spot in a spirited performance from the first timers.

OFK Beograd caused the biggest upset having been down 2:0 away to Turkish giants Galatasaray, the 'Romantics' scored two late goals through



40,000 fans packed the Marakana Stadium

Milan Krstic and Nenad Injac, silencing the home faithful. It was an excellent display of courage and determination from the young OFK side which now has everything to play for in the return fixture.

Red Star Belgrade was the only sour note despite playing in front of 40,000 fans, the former European Champions lost to Slovakia's Slovan Bratislava

2:1. Slovan was on the back foot for the greater part of the match and only had two shots on goal but both found the net. Ivana opened the scoring following a mix up at the back by Red Star, the second by Slovakian International Salata cancelled out Super Sup Trifunovic's fabulous strike.



## Croatia

Dinamo Zagreb will have a slight advantage after scoring a vital away goal against Moldovan Champions Sheriff. The Croatian giants took the lead early on through Ivorian Sammirs cracking volley but the home side scored a quick equaliser and had a player advantage when Barbaric was sent off with 30 minutes remaining.

Hajduk lost away to Romanian side Dinamo Bucharest 3:1 in the Europa League qualifiers, the popular 'Majstori sa Mora' take on Osijek in their opening league encounter.

In Round 2 of the Prva HNL Dinamo lost at home to Rijeka 2:1. Sammir gave the defending Champions a 1:0 lead but Rijeka quickly levelled through Rodic and took all three points after Marko Badelj put the ball past his own goal. Velemir Zajec's men have been criticised for their inability to control games, particularly against

## CROATIA

	P	GD	Pts
1 Zagreb	2	+4	6
2 Rijeka	2	+2	6
3 Slaven Belupo	2	+2	6
4 Cibalia	2	+3	4
5 Hajduk	1	+5	3
6 Split	2	+3	3
7 Dinamo	2	+2	3
8 Karlovac	2	+1	3
9 Zadar	2	+1	3
10 Lokomotiva	2	-1	3
11 Varaždin	2	-3	3
12 Šibenik	2	-1	1
13 Osijek	1	-3	0
14 Hrvatski	2	-4	0
15 Inter Zaprešić	2	-4	0
16 Istra 1961	2	-7	0

weaker opposition.

Newly promoted RNK Split thrashed Varteks Varazdin 4:0. Zagreb won away to Istra 2:0, Zadar defeated Karlovac with the same scoreline while the points were shared between Šibenik and Cibalia

## Euro Scene with Daniel Fields

European giants Liverpool and Juventus began life under new coaches with victories in the first legs of their Europa League third qualifying round ties on Thursday.

A David Ngog brace gave Roy Hodgson's Liverpool a 2:0 victory at Macedonian minnows Rabotnicki, while Luigi Delneri oversaw an equally straightforward 2:0 win for the Italian side at Irish team Shamrock Rovers. Liverpool and Juve have had to undergo the ignominy of the Europa League preliminary rounds after each finished seventh in their respective leagues last season, prompting managerial changes at both Anfield and the Stadio Olimpico.

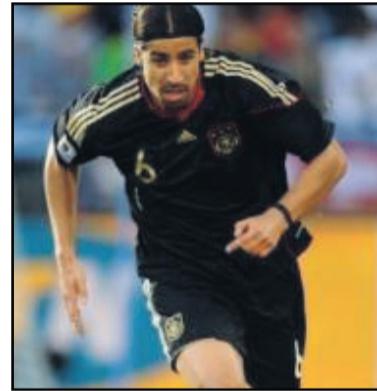
With 10 World Cup players including Steven Gerrard, Joe Cole and Javier Mascherano all short of fitness, Hodgson fielded a team partly made up of fringe players at the Filip II Arena in Skopje, Macedonia.

Juve boss Luigi Del Neri, handed first competitive starts to a number of new signings, including goalkeeper Marco Storari, former Bari centre-back Leonardo Bonucci and on-loan winger Pepe. "Gigi" Buffon looks set retire and prosper a career in coaching until he can settle his back injury that lingered right onto the World Cup in South Africa until last month.

Brazilian-Italian striker Amauri put the Serie A side ahead in the third minute in Dublin, finishing deftly after a sharp one-two with Diego, before netting his second with 15 minutes to play.

Bundesliga side Stuttgart emerged from their game at Norwegians Molde with a 3-2 victory, but only after the hosts had twice fought back from a goal down. Sebastian Rudy's opener was cancelled out in the 65th minute by a fortunate goal from Matthias Mostrom, who charged down an attempted clearance and sent the ball bouncing past goalkeeper Sven Ulreich. Zdravko Kuzmanovic restored the visitors' lead with a free-kick in the 74th minute, only for Magne Høseth to reply two minutes later, before substitute Martin Harnik's back-post header settled the game in the 82nd minute.

Elsewhere, Sporting Lisbon won 1-0 at Norway's Nordsjælland and French side Montpellier prevailed 1-0 at Györ of Hungary. A goal from new signing Dennis Rommedahl gave Greek giants Olympiakos a 2-1 win at home to Israelis Maccabi Tel-Aviv but Galatasaray let slip a 2-0 lead in the last 10 minutes to draw 2-2 against Serbia's OFK Beograd in Istanbul. Marítimo of Portugal enjoyed the night's biggest victory, winning 8-2 at home to hapless Welsh outfit Bangor City. The second legs take place on this coming week, August 3-5, with heavyweights such as Manchester City, Napoli, Borussia Dortmund and Porto all expected to enter the competition in the following round.



Khedira moves to Real



Raúl moves to Stuttgart

On transfer news, headlines continue circling Cesc Fábregas. Raúl as well.

Raúl González who almost single-handedly played most notably in winning seasons with Vicente del Bosque's side to UEFA Champions Leagues and whom also undermined splits within the dressing rooms has been unwanted at "Camp Nou" under "The Chosen One". It's been covered all week, Raúl's moved to Schalke '04 in the Bundesliga.

The other saga continues as coach Arsene personally expressed his own trademark question he does to each and everyone before and after every season: "Do you want to remain at the club (at Arsenal)?" Cesc could not find answer with a clear yes or no.

Still regarding Barcelona, the club recorded its biggest loss in the club's history. The reason there are discrepancies between economic reports, especially regarding the clubs in Spain (compared to those in England), especially FC Barcelona, is because FC Barcelona is not an LLC but rather a club that is owned by socios, members.

This means that usually all economic reports are for internal use and there is no obligation from the club to publish their financial reports to the public (which is contrary to LLCs - limited liability companies and other financially obligated institutions).

Back in June 30 of 2010, Xavier Sala i Martin showed Laporta's closing numbers before handing the club over to Rosell's group with the following words: "It is a record in Barca's history. 445.5 Million Euros are the biggest income numbers presented by any club in any sport in the whole world, not only football but also the rest of sports including North American sports like the NBA and Baseball. The club that has presented the biggest income numbers in the history of the planet is Barca this year."

Just about a month later, on July 27th, Javier Faus revealed the audit numbers: "Barcelona's debt as of today is the biggest in the club's history. That doesn't mean

anything but that we are not comfortable working with this debt. The current debt is the biggest in the club's history, even greater than in 2003. The losses back in 2002-2003 in Gaspart's era were the biggest in the club's history at the time and on top of that the income that Barca has today is much bigger than back in 2002-2003. After explaining all this, I still prefer the club's current picture." Over and out with the subject as this quotes from website Total Barca.com.

In the fashion capital, AC Milan have turned their transfer efforts towards Sampdoria midfielder Angelo Palombo, despite Adriano Galliani claiming he doubted there would be big reinforcements this summer. Il Corriere dello Sport claims coach Massimiliano Allegri is looking for a player that has the qualities of both Andrea Pirlo and Gennaro Gattuso, who looks set to remain at the club. And Palombo is the right man to bolster Allegri's Champions League squad.

However, the Rossoneri would have to throw together a rapid move as Sampdoria will soon be playing in the Champions League preliminary, meaning if Palombo played for them, he would not be eligible to play for Milan in the competition this season. The other midfield candidates are

Marco Donadel, Mahamadou Diarra and Emanuele Blasi.

Stuttgart's German international midfielder Sami Khedira is closing in on a move to Spanish club Real Madrid, the club's sporting director Fredi Bobic confirmed on Thursday. "It's not often we receive such an offer from Real Madrid," Bobic told the daily Bild. "It's up to Real and us now to reach agreement."

The player's agent Jorg Neubauer added: "It's true he wants to go to Real. He's talking now with Stuttgart." Khedira was one of the revelations of the 2010 World Cup where Germany finished third, and is under contract with Stuttgart until 2011. According to media reports Stuttgart are ready

to let the 23-year-old leave for 15 million euro, while Real Madrid are ready to pay between 8 million and 10 million euro.

On another note from Germany, A Muslim group and German soccer authorities said Wednesday they have determined that professional Muslim players may break their fast during the holy month of Ramadan. The announcement followed a dispute involving second-division club FSV Frankfurt, which last year gave a formal warning to three of its players for fasting.

During Ramadan, devout Muslims fast from dawn to dusk, abstaining even from water. The club had a clause in contracts stating that wasn't allowed without its express permission. Germany's Central Council of Muslims said it sought advice from Al-Azhar in Egypt, the pre-eminent theological institute of Sunni Islam, and elsewhere.

The cash-strapped French city of Strasbourg announced on Thursday they have withdrawn their bid to host matches in the 2016 European football championship. City officials estimated that the financial burden of renovating the Meinau stadium was too heavy and would cost 160 million euros of which 130 million would be paid for by the city.

Strasbourg major Roland Ries said the decision was taken as a result of "the unusual situation of Strasbourg," the only one of the bidding cities to have their club, Racing Strasbourg, playing in the third division. France were unveiled as Euro 2016 hosts in May by UEFA president Michel Platini, beating off strong opposition from Turkey and Italy. Eleven bidders remain to host games - Paris (Stade de France), Paris (Parc des Princes), Lens, Lille, Bordeaux, Nice, Toulouse, Marseille, Lyon, Saint-Etienne and Nancy - of which nine will be selected next May.

Experienced defender Jean Alain Boumsong will follow French teammates Djibril Cisse and newly-arrived Sidney Govou by sealing a move to Greek champions Panathinaikos on Friday. Media reports here said the 30-year-old will sign a three-year contract with an annual salary of about one million euros with Boumsong's current club Lyon expected to receive 850,000 euros from the deal.

"I came to the best team in Greece. I do not know if I will become a team leader, but I promise that I will give my best," said the Frenchman. Boumsong has played for Lyon (2008-2010), Juventus (2006-2008), Newcastle United (2005-2006), Rangers (2004-2005), Auxerre (2000-2004) and Le Havre (1997-2000). "I have had success in the Champions League with my previous teams and I want to accomplish the same with Panathinaikos," Boumsong said.

League champions Marseille won France's Champions Trophy when they beat their biggest rivals Paris St Germain 5-4 on penalties last Wednesday after the match ended goalless. After a tepid 90 minutes the game went straight to spot-kicks. PSG's Peguy Luyindula missed the very first kick but goalkeeper Gregory Coupet kept out Lucho González to leave it level at 4-4 after five kicks.

Ludovic Giuly then missed the first extra kick leaving Marseille's Edouard Cissé to seal the first silverware of the season. The annual curtain raiser to the domestic season between the Ligue 1 winners and the French Cup winners - PSG beat Monaco in the final this year - was some way below the intensity usually shown when these two sides meet in spite of the encouragement of a 55,000 crowd at the November 7 stadium. The first half was particularly grim with neither side able to conjure even a hint of a chance.

Italian champions Inter Milan will visit last season's runners-up AS Roma and host traditional rivals Juventus in their fifth and sixth Serie A matches next season the draw was made on Wednesday. The European champions, who also won the domestic cup last season to seal an unprecedented Italian treble, open their campaign at perennial strugglers Bologna but the game may be shifted from the Aug. 29 date given they face Atletico Madrid in the European Super Cup on Aug. 27.

Inter, who have brought in youngster

Coutinho as they seek a sixth straight

scudetto and look poised to sell Maicon

and Mario Balotelli, finish the season

at home to Catania. The draw was made on live television in front of a star-studded audience in Milan.

Before the ceremony, Milan chief executive Adriano Galliani told reporters that

midfielder Gennaro Gattuso would be

staying at the club as mentioned above af-

ter being linked incessantly with a move.

AS Roma start their season at home to

newly-promoted Cesena.

## Serie A opening fixtures

(Aug. 28/29 tbc)

Bari v Juventus

Bologna v Inter

Chievo v Catania

Fiorentina v Napoli

Milan v Lecce

Palermo v Cagliari

Parma v Brescia

Roma v Cesena

Sampdoria v Lazio

Udinese v Genoa

# Maradona ousted as Argentina coach

 **Diego Maradona was removed as coach of Argentina's national team last Tuesday, ending an erratic 21-month stint that mirrored his own long history of unpredictable behavior and culminated in a humiliating exit in the World Cup quarterfinals.**

The Argentine Football Association, following a unanimous vote of its executive committee, said that his contract would not be renewed after Maradona had said he would only accept the AFA's offer of a new four-year deal through to the 2014 World Cup if his entire staff also remained.

That was unacceptable to Argentine Football Association president Julio Grondona. He had asked for several assistants to be replaced.

One of them is Maradona's close friend, Alejandro Mancuso.

The federation's executive committee sided with Grondona, a little more than three weeks after Argentina was eliminated in the World Cup in South Africa with a 4-0 loss to Germany.

AFA spokesman Ernesto Cherquis Bialo called the decision "very painful for the AFA" but said there was no way to solve the impasse.

"The president said that there was a significant difference between what AFA wanted to achieve and Maradona's aspirations for the future," Cherquis Bialo said. "There was a wide gap, and it was impossible to narrow it."

The AFA said youth team manager Sergio Batista would be the interim coach for the friendly against Ireland on Aug. 11 in Dublin.

Despite Maradona's contract not being renewed, Cherquis Bialo hinted there might be a role in the future for him.

"This marks the end of a first chapter with Mr. Maradona," Cherquis Bialo said. "The doors to this house, as always, will be open to him."

Possible successors include two club coaches in Argentina: Alejandro Sabella of Estudiantes and Miguel Russo of Racing. Former Argentina coach Marcelo Bielsa has also been mentioned as an option. Bielsa led Chile to the final 16 of the World Cup.

Asked who will be the new coach, Cherquis Bialo offered nothing.

"The people who were in the meeting have no name in their imaginations," Cherquis Bialo said. "It has just been announced that the contract with the coach will not be renewed, and so, a new stage begins."

Maradona tried to do it his way, a style which brought him glory in leading Argentina to the 1986 World Cup title.

"Diego shut himself off to any change," executive committee member Luis Segura said on Argentine television. "Diego has all the right to do what he wants. But so does AFA."

Maradona was also at odds with Carlos Bilardo, the current director of the national team who coached the 1986 World Cup side. He also lobbied to have Oscar Ruggeri on his staff. Ruggeri was a defender in the 1986 team but has fallen out with Grondona.

The 49-year-old Maradona became Argentina's coach in November 2008, replacing Alfio Basile and taking over a team he led to Argentina's second World Cup title. His results were mixed. He had little coaching experience, and the team suffered two of the worst losses in history: a 6-1 hammering at Bolivia in World Cup qualifying, and the recent World Cup defeat to Germany.

Argentina played with flair in South Africa, notably Lionel Messi, Gonzalo Higuain and Carlos Tevez. But Maradona's inexperience was obvious in the loss to Germany, which exposed Argentina's defensive frailties and lack of midfield speed. Dressed in a gray suit, Maradona's enthusiastic and demonstrative antics on the sidelines simply failed to mask his tactical deficiencies.

Messi, widely regarded as the sport's best player, left the World Cup without scoring a goal. Maradona never explained



Don't cry for me Argentina? It all ended in tears for poor Diego

why Messi, who had a roaming role on the pitch, failed to score and he had no answer for the piercing attack of Germany coach Joachim Loew.

"Nobody ever told me where to play. So I shouldn't have to tell Messi where to play either," Maradona said.

Maradona is a larger-than-life icon in Argentina who beat cocaine and alcohol addiction. He grew up in a Buenos Aires slum and his escape from poverty has endeared him to many. But he has worn out his welcome in other quarters.

Maradona got offside with the government of President Cristina Fernandez, who twice invited him to meet with her. She had been openly supportive of keeping him as coach, while one legislator has even proposed building a monument to honor him.

Cabinet chief Anibal Fernández said, "Maradona failed to respond or answer the phone, forcing the president's secretaries to leave messages."

Two weeks ago, the AFA offered Maradona the chance to renew his contract for another four years. But Maradona put off meeting with Grondona to travel to Venezuela at the invitation of his friend, President Hugo Chávez.

Maradona's relationship with key figures in Argentine football was also tense. He denied the leaders of AFA and businessmen with commercial ties to the organization any access to practice sessions in South Africa but allowed reporters to attend.

Still, Maradona had many loyal supporters.

"I want Maradona to stay," Interior Minister Florencio Randazzo said Tuesday in an interview on Argentine radio. "We will support his decision. If he leaves, we will miss him."

Team trainer Fernando Signorini added: "I have no doubt they didn't want him. Maradona is like a stone in the shoe of power."

During his tenure, Maradona called up over 100 players. The 23-man World Cup squad he announced in May excluded veteran defender Javier Zanetti and midfielder Esteban Cambiasso, who both play for Champions League winner Inter Milan.

In a shock move, he picked Ariel Garce in his squad despite the defender only playing his first international for Argentina in May against Haiti.

Maradona's most controversial moment came nine months ago when Argentina defeated Uruguay, finally ending a struggle to reach the World Cup. Maradona erupted with a stream of sexually graphic profanities at his critics on live TV. He was given a two-month ban by FIFA.

**Honduras coach Reinaldo Rueda says he is leaving the national team.**

Rueda says he regrets not be able to take the squad beyond the first round in the recent World Cup in South Africa.

The Colombian-born coach is a naturalized Honduran citizen. He says he "is leaving by the front door, so as not to cause disunity" in Honduras.

Rueda was tearful Wednesday as he announced his departure, saying "I now have

no tie to Honduras, I have no contract with Honduras."



**Midfielder Bruno Cesar scored a pair of late goals as Corinthians defeated Guarani 3-1 in coach Mano Menezes' last league match before taking over as coach of Brazil's national team.**

Menezes accepted the Brazil job on Saturday and got Corinthians back atop the Brazilian league on Sunday, the day before he was officially introduced as the new national team coach.

Corinthians fans saluted Menezes, who walked around the field after the match waving at supporters in the grandstands. Players hugged Menezes and hoisted him into the air a few times.

New Brazil coach 'Mano' Menezes chose a young squad for the national team's first match after the World Cup, picking Alexandre Pato, Paulo Henrique Ganso and Neymar for the friendly against the United States next month.

Only four players were included from Brazil's World Cup squad in South Africa—Daniel Alves, Ramires, Thiago Silva and Robinho. Kaka, Luis Fabiano and goalkeeper Julio Cesar were among those not summoned last Monday.

"It's the beginning of a renovation, with the goal being the 2014 World Cup and the (2012) London Olympics," Menezes said.

**Brazil's sports minister defended the preparations for the 2014 World Cup on Wednesday, while acknowledging that there are no plans yet for the Sao Paulo stadium meant to stage the opening ceremony.**

Orlando Silva said he has been reassured by local officials that a proposal is due within days, and said FIFA has been slow to approve plans.

FIFA has previously criticized Brazil's readiness, saying the country is behind schedule in several areas, including stadium renovation and infrastructure.

"These are the opinions of those who ignore the reality of the country," Silva said, adding that FIFA will soon "see the reality close up. They will be surprised with the preparations for the World Cup."

"FIFA will have to do its part. Because projects for the stadiums were approved only this May, and you could not start work on the stadiums without the projects having been approved."

In May, FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke was fiercely critical of preparations and Brazilian officials have previously acknowledged they have to pick up the pace.

A recent report by a government watchdog outlined the delays and warned that construction in some key areas, such as airports, may not be completed in time.

However, Silva said the lack of progress in building a stadium in Sao Paulo — Latin America's largest city—is the biggest hurdle.

"Sao Paulo is the only bottleneck in preparing for 2014 World Cup because the other 11 cities are preparing at a very good

pace," he said.

Brazil football federation president Ricardo Teixeira said during a visit to a stadium in Belo Horizonte on Wednesday that he thinks the city is now the frontrunner to host the opening ceremony and first match.

Renovations to Belo Horizonte's Mineirão stadium have already begun.

"Because they have started and they began before the others, Belo Horizonte has an advantage," Teixeira said.

Silva said a Brazilian bank has provided \$2.7 billion of financing for the renovation or construction of stadiums, with a credit limit of \$226 million for each project.

Earlier this month, the Brazilian government said it would invest nearly \$3 billion to renovate and expand airports, and guarantee about \$400 million to upgrade ports—news that Silva highlighted as proving the country was on track in its preparations.

But Silva said plans have yet to be finalized for other major areas—primarily in security, a major concern for foreign visitors. It proved to be a bigger spending drain than expected for the organizers of this year's World Cup in South Africa.

South African officials have agreed to provide a report of the positive and negative lessons learned from hosting the event, Silva said.



**Colo Colo, despite a 2-0 loss on Sunday to Universidad de Concepción, won Chile's Apertura tournament to guarantee it a place in this season's Copa Sudamericana and the 2011 Copa Libertadores under new coach, former Boca Juniors midfielder Diego Cagna.**

Colo Colo finished the competition with 38 points, two better than Universidad de Chile who are fighting the semi-final of the Libertadores against Chivas of Mexico's Guadalajara and four in front of the giant of the "big three", Universidad Católica. Juan Cabral and Pedro Muñoz scored for Universidad de Concepción, which finished with 18 points.



**COPA LIBERTADORES WRAP**  
**Substitute midfielder Giuliano scored in the second half to give Internacional a 1-0 win over fellow Brazilian side Sao Paulo in the first leg of the Copa Libertadores semifinals Wednesday.**

Giuliano sent the ball off the inside of the post following build up play by Andres D'Alessandro and Alecsandro in the 68th minute, three minutes after taking the field.

The return leg will be played in Sao Paulo's Morumbí stadium this coming Thursday.

The Copa Libertadores is the top club competition in Latin America. Remember the tournament took a break after the quarterfinals to make way for the World Cup, restarting at the semifinal stage.

Inter won the Copa Libertadores in 2006, while Sao Paulo was champion in 1992, 1993 and 2005.

The semifinal between the teams is a repeat of the 2006 final, which Inter won. Internacional had the best chances at home in the Beira-Rio stadium, with Andres D'Alessandro curling a free kick wide from 25 yards (meters) in the 19th minute and winger Taison's header forcing a diving save from goalkeeper Rogerio Ceni in the 29th.

Ceni pushed Andrezinho's shot from the edge of the area round the post in the 47th minute as Inter increased the pressure in the second half. After Giuliano opened the scoring, defender Kleber had a chance to extend the lead, but shot over from close range in the 73rd minute.

Sao Paulo had few chances, with Dagoberto's deflected shot flying wide in the 57th minute and Hernanes shooting at Inter goalkeeper Renan in stoppage time.

Mexico's Guadalajara was held to a 1-1 draw at home against Universidad de Chile on Tuesday in the other semifinal first leg as the Azteca stadium, the mighty home of great World Cup finals and of the Mexican League saw a battle that should ensure the Chilean side a ticket to the final.

Any questions of how Chivas would be received at the Azteca were answered immediately even as they had to move to Mexico City after kickoff as the home of the Azteca roared with chants of Ole! They grabbed the momentum early on as they fed off of the support from the 60,000-plus paid attendance. Omar Arellano and Omar Bravo troubled Los Chunchos with their pace. Through the first 15 minutes Chivas controlled possession, but had failed to produce any dangerous situations for Miguel Pinto.

Early on, la U preferred to maintain a compact formation that failed to produce a dangerous situation for Luis Ernesto Michel, but also allowed them to weather the early Chivas onslaught without having allowed a shot on goal. Instead, Universidad kept all 11 on their side of the pitch in search of a counterattack opportunity.

For Chivas, Adolfo Bautista played was all over the pitch winning balls and looking to link play between the defense and the attack, but while his vision was on point, his touch was not. Errant final balls toward Bravo and Arellano went down as wasted opportunities. Universidad meanwhile, played a Uruguayan style Cattena-cio as Gerardo Pelusso's squad consciously avoided attacking down the flanks, preferring to keep the team's shape intact. On two occasions, preferring to get called for offside rather than switching fields.

In the 36th minute, Xavier Báez was the first to enter the referee's book with a late tackle in the middle of the pitch on Felipe Seymour. The match which Chivas once held a vice grip on began to slip out of its grasp as tempers flared. La U was clearly playing for the away draw and Chivas had begun to feel the pressure of not being able to crack the Universidad de Chile defense.

The second half got off to a popping start as Bravo crossed to Bofo in Pinto's penalty area, which Bautista deftly headed prompting a diving save. Los Chunchos did not take long to respond with an attacking sequence of their own. Off a free kick and a loose ball in Michel's area, Juan Manuel Olivera headed to Rafael Olarra for the first goal of the match in the 48th minute.

Down one-nil in the opening leg at home, Chivas attacked relentlessly as the crowd urged them on. Off an Alberto Medina corner, Arellano bought the match level in the 53rd minute as Pinto failed to control a ball in his area.

In the 59th minute, Medina nearly scored a wonder goal, dribbling the ball twice in mid air before unleashing a 180° shot that went wide right. Chivas had regained control of the match following a tumultuous opening 10 minutes to the second half.

Olivera came off for Diego Rivarola in the 67th minute, seemingly to add stamina to a squad that appeared to struggle to keep up with a much fitter Chivas squad. Chivas countered by inserting dangerous Marco Fabian for Medina. Universidad de Chile, though, had endured enough close calls and settled for escaping Azteca with a draw. They reverted back into their shell, leaving the Chivas backline to mark Rivarola.

At the final whistle, Universidad de Chile have to consider themselves lucky to escape with a draw after their display. Chivas sought the game and deserved the draw after a lively display in front of their home crowd. Chivas, meanwhile, will need either to score or find a way to take the lead on the blue-coloured la U side headed by the Uruguayan coach Pelusso because a scoreless draw will see them eliminated.



With Leroy Robinson in the UK



# Hughes gets the thumbs up from Fulham

By Leroy Robinson

**Congratulations to Mark Hughes for securing a job at Fulham - one of the most family friendly football clubs in England. The trouble Hughes may have is that the expectations of the little club down by the River Thames will be inflated by past successes. Whoever wrote Love is the Drug should have factored in the high a successful season can have on a team's supporters. Last year Fulham finished 12th in the league and made it to a European final. For such a tiny club on a tiny budget Roy Hodgson worked miracles.**

The rumours throughout the summer had him joining Liverpool and so it proved. The man to fill the incumbent managerial position at Craven Cottage was more of a mystery. Martin Jol flirted with the idea but now Fulham have their second choice - Mark 'Sparky' Hughes. But will Sparky's pride be somewhat hurt that he wasn't the first choice. Why should it? Does it really matter how many people were considered before he got the job?

He has more pressing concerns. His main role will be to show that he's capable of picking up where Hodgson left off. He won't be looking to prove to the Fulham ownership that somehow he is worthier than their first choice. All he has to do is maintain Fulham as a side that are hard to breakdown, whilst introducing his own style of play. It won't be easy. He'll be judged on results and compared to the previous manager right away. And, as happens when a new manager comes to town, the first few months are the most telling. Start off badly and his job will be in jeopardy.

It is one heck of a comedown for Hughes - from the endless riches of Manchester City to having to look behind the sofa for pound coins. Having said that I don't expect Hughes to be fazed. In fact the Fulham job could be a perfect way to rebuild his career - just like it did Hodgson's. Let's look at the parallels. Hodgson's career took him into managing Blackburn, where he was sacked. He then moved from pillar to post, gaining valuable international experience before he got the Fulham job. Hughes managed Wales (1999-2004), and then Blackburn (2004-2008), before being recruited and sacked by City. By all accounts he did a very good job of building the squad, keeping them in the premier league and improving their league position. What he did that was most impressive was change expectations at the club. Whereas now they are happy to avoid relegation, back when Hughes was in charge they looked toward the European places. They didn't play attractive football, but they got results. That is the sort of mantra Hughes must, and I believe will, bring into Fulham Football Club.

The only downsides are his penchant for former players and, if Fulham's fans and management are too drunk and de-



Back in the big time with a small time club. Mark Hughes can stop hitch hiking the motorways and finally puts his thumb to good use after scoring a gig with the mighty Fulham.

ceived by last year's success, the club's ability to "get real" this season. On the first point Hughes won't have unlimited funds so going after the likes of Craig Bellamy (as has been reported) is a gamble. Bellamy has had more clubs than Canadian seal pups, and he can be liable to hurt team chemistry. I also wonder if Craig himself would fancy such a move - a downward shift in his career. My advice to Hughes would be to keep to Hodgson's formula of mainly buying no-name players and not star names, and to use the loan system to perhaps get players surplus to requirements from other clubs, like Fulham did with Nicky Shorey last year.

As for expectations, there's nothing wrong with them as long as they are realistic. There was once a team called Middlesbrough who got to a European final. Where are they now? In the lower leagues of English football. I once wrote about Fulham that the reason they were such a success is because they knew who they were - a little club who have to work harder than the more talented teams to succeed. Success didn't come easy last

year and, given that they won't be in Europe this year, the onus will be on their league and cup form. Expectations will be high. Considering they have more or less the same squad the feeling among fans is that they can again challenge for Europe through the league. They need to think again. The reason they finished 7th a few years ago was because Spurs and Man City were mediocre. This won't happen next season so the best they can hope for is a top half finish and a cup run. If they think they can do any more than this they are not only high on success they are positively delusional. Hughes is a man who couldn't handle the expectation at City and always liked to downplay what his sides could achieve.

This will stand him in good stead at The Cottage and is something he should be looking to do at every opportunity. Other than that the advice has to be to keep up the good work of the previous boss. If he does that then who knows, maybe in a few years time he'll be taking over at a big club that plays in red.

## Liverpool: A Week in the Life

One player wants to leave, a player who was released re-signs, they have no front line striker and Roy Hodgson has ranted about having to play in competitive competition at the end of July - just another week in the life of Liverpool Football Club.

The news Javier Mascherano wanted to leave the club was hardly a surprise. He'd ignored his manager's telephone calls by turning off his mobile. I don't know what his excuse was for not being bothered to answer the manager's calls but it seems that South Americans think they have licence to cut themselves off from the world when they go back home. Brazilian's are often caught partying in the early hours of the night but when it comes time to depart and go to their paymasters in Europe somehow the plane is late or they lose mobile phone reception or else blame some sort of family emergency, rather than be truthful and leaving an answer phone message stating they're having just too good a time to come back right now.

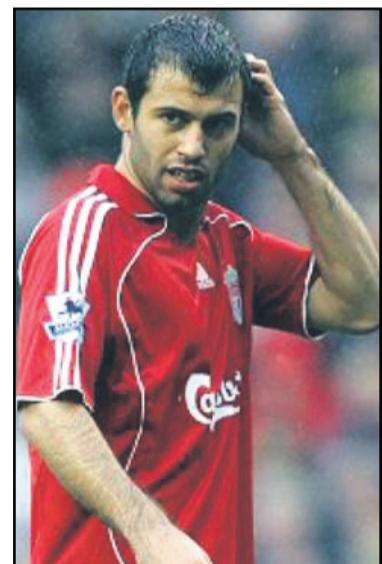
The other excuse used on behalf of

JM is that he wants to go to Inter to be coached by Rafa Benitez. I think a supporter's vision is such that they see through this disingenuous attempt to engineer a move. Javier, you're employed by the club, not by the overweight Spaniard, and that is where your loyalties should lie. Again, a little honesty wouldn't go amiss here. Just tell the club they're not good enough to even fight for a Europa Cup place next season and you'd be respected a great deal more, at least by London Calling.

I don't blame Javier for wishing to abandon a nose-diving plane before it hits the ground. But if he was more up for the challenge maybe he could help put Liverpool back into the top 4. Let's face it, given his embarrassing performances last year he should be the first to stay and right the wrongs of last year.

The news that Liverpool re-signed Fabio Aurelio after letting him go a few months back is strange. He was deemed not good enough by Rafa Benitez and yet is now so good he was offered (and accepted) a 2 year contract. One man doesn't know what he's doing and I venture to suggest it isn't Hodgson.

As for Liverpool's lack of strikers, it is one of the strangest mysteries of the EPL. How can such a big club have so little cover? I hate to rip Benitez, but hey, he is to blame for that too. The question is does Hodgson have enough time and money to buy an adequate replacement for the injured Fernando Torres? Having credited RH with being more competent than his predecessor in that regard I would imagine there's a shortlist of forwards on his desk as I type. What Roy must do is uncross his fingers, throw salt over his shoulder and make a call to the club's American owners for funds. As for playing in Europe at the end of July; the answer is simple. Don't finish 7th next time guys.



Javier double checks his ear piece for a loose transmission. Funnily enough it never seems to work when the Reds' boss rings.

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# Will Spurs become the next Leeds?

It was undoubtedly a good season for Tottenham last year, as they finished fourth in what turned out to be their best season since the inception of the Premier League. They have one of the best squads in English football, a manager who is currently bringing them success, and the cherry on top of all their recent achievements is that they may soon qualify for the Champions League.

Towards the end of last season I wrote in this very column that Spurs should be very proud of what they have achieved, and that there may be more to come over the next few years. However I also raised a few notes of caution for the North Londoners, as there is no such thing as guaranteed success, and it's possible that last term will be more of a blip than an accurate precursor of things to come. And this week I have been reading several reports, stories and rumours that are still making me worried when it comes to Tottenham's bright future.

The major news this week for Spurs fans is that it appears that they will soon have an answer as to whether they will be getting approval for a brand new stadium. In case you haven't seen any projected images of what may be Tottenham's new home then I urge you to look some up as it truly does look impressive. According to several reports the new White Heart Lane, or whatever it may be called, will be a state of the art 56,000 seater stadium, which will cost in the region of four hundred million pounds to build.

Now Spurs currently play in a stadium which fills around 36,000 fans, and they also have approximately 23,000 fans on a ticket waiting list, so I do believe that for the most part the new stadium will be filled. This will obviously bring in much more revenue for the club, and may help Spurs to compete with the handful of teams currently bigger than themselves.

However I worry whether this new stadium is too much of a gamble for Tottenham. Of course I am not



An artist's impression of the futuristic New White Hart Lane. Let's hope they've remembered to leave some room for Chas and Dave's piano.

fully aware of how they plan to finance the project, although I believe they are trying to sign a deal with the well-known supermarket chain Sainsbury's, and they may feel that this move would be a financially stable one for them to make.

Yet to me the whole size of the project seems far too large for where Spurs as a club are currently at. I'm sure Tottenham fans won't like the comparison, but take their North London rivals Arsenal. The Gunners moved to the Emirates stadium just a few years ago, which of course they are still paying off, and at the time they had had League success, and several seasons in the economically rewarding Champions League. Spurs on the other hand have had not league success, no previous seasons in the lucrative Champions League, and in fact may still not qualify for Europe's top competition this time round.

I sincerely hope that the money men at Tottenham are not seriously counting on continued success in both the Champions and the Premier League, as in their recent history Spurs have shown simply no

evidence that they can maintain any level of success for more than a season or so. I have little evidence to back this up, but I do feel that in some cases, perhaps either with the Chairmen himself or others invested in the club, certain eyes are getting too big for their bellies, so to speak, and Tottenham are beginning to overreach.

Like I said in my article which I mentioned here earlier, it is not too long ago that Leeds fans thought that they were indestructible; on their way to increasingly large glories. And within just a couple of seasons their whole footballing world came tumbling down around them, as they dropped from Champions League semi-finalists to being relegated into the third tier of English football. And with this massive financial gamble, at least as I see it, it's surely not inconceivable that Spurs may go a similar way.

Once again I also have to raise concerns in this respect with their current manager Harry Redknapp. As I have said several times before, Redknapp isn't as great a manager as many people believe him to be,

and he is perhaps the worst person in all of English football to be taking over a club who may want to tighten their budgets in the coming seasons.

So far, and this comes from some reputable journalists in both print media and online, Spurs and Redknapp have been linked with Joe Cole, who obviously went to Liverpool, Klaas-Jan Huntelaar, Luis Suarez, Luis Fabiano, Micah Richards, Craig Bellamy, Scott Parker, Ashley Young, James Milner and Taye Taiwo and Spartak Moscow goalkeeper Stipe Pletikosa. And those were all just this very week.

Now of course I understand that not all of these transfer dealings are factual, and obviously hardly any of them will actually come to fruition, yet the point remains that Redknapp as a manager is one who always needs a new influx of players every season, and who is always on the lookout for new talent to come in. If you look back over his career, at teams like Portsmouth and Southampton, he has only really had success when he has been allowed to constantly refresh his

squads, and for the most part this has been to the financial detriment of the clubs he has managed.

Again let us draw a comparison with Arsenal, who since moving to their new stadium have relied more upon young players, either coming up through the ranks or being bought for a relatively low price from other clubs, as opposed to bringing in well known, established talent which obviously costs much more. Of course the Gunners are lucky in that they have a manager who can seemingly spot talent which is underrated elsewhere, which all helps the club maintain a strong financial backbone.

In opposition, I simply cannot see Redknapp being able, or frankly even wanting to, change his method of bringing players to the club, and if tight reigns aren't placed upon him I think it is very possible that Redknapp may lead Spurs to a financial disaster.

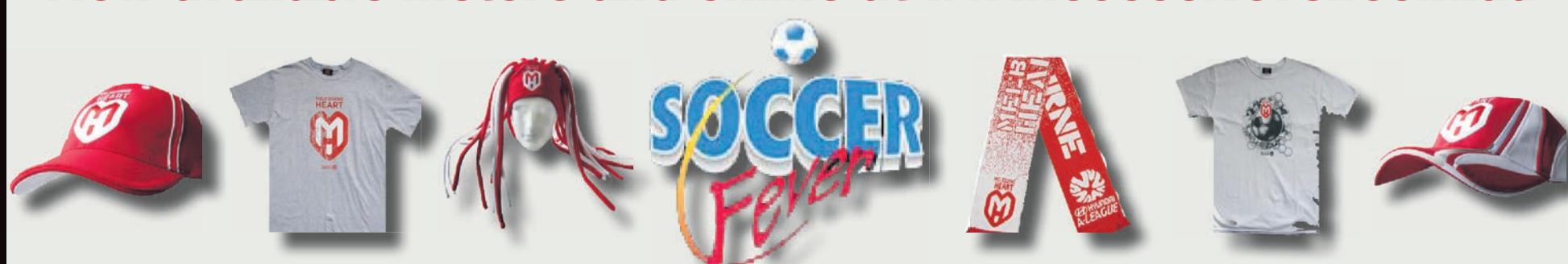
Of course, much of my musings are simple speculations, but as I have noted here before, the steps that Spurs take now, no matter how seemingly well planned, could have drastic implications further down the line. There is little doubt that a move to a bigger stadium is needed for Tottenham to grow as a force in English football, yet this looks to be a move too big for where Spurs are currently at.

The comparisons with Leeds are fitting, as Leeds were also intoxicated by their Champions League status, which led them to spend far too much on players. They also, like Spurs, had a manager who was happy to continue bringing in new talent, even though the finances were not there, and I worry that Redknapp will be allowed to do the same.

If Tottenham do pursue an avenue of overreaching, especially with a manager who relies upon having new transfer budgets each window, then I do sincerely worry that Spurs may become yet another warning story for other clubs, just as Leeds did a few years ago.

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# Relegation battles heat up in WA

By Jacob Kagi

Inglewood United and Swan United both blew chances to move clear of the relegation zone as the sides drew 3-3 in the Football West State Premier League.

Both remain just three points ahead of Cockburn City, made worse by Cockburn facing bottom half teams in three of its last four games, including a round 21 clash with Inglewood.

Inglewood appeared on track to secure its safety when it led 3-1 in the second half, but Thomas Shephard scored his second goal of the game in the 70th minute to give Swan hope before Liam Boland tied the scores in the 89th minute.

Daniel Stoitis had given Inglewood the lead twice with goals in the 4th and 54th minutes before Sandi Loncar gave it the 3-1 advantage in the 59th minute.

Swan's task of avoiding relegation is made easier by it having a better goal difference than Cockburn, but City's goal difference is six goals better than Inglewood.

Balcatta is far from assured of safety after it lost 4-0 to Western Knights, leaving it within four points of the drop zone in its first year in the Premier League.

Balcatta has just three points from its last six games, but those three crucially came last round against Cockburn, but may still have to beat Swan on the last day of the season to guarantee survival.

Western Knights temporarily moved ahead of Stirling to the top of the table with a win, with the Lions the Sunday fixture, but comfortably maintains a top five spot.

Simon Versaico put Knights ahead after 37 minutes, before David Trim secured a brace with goals in the 44th



Swan United's Thomas Shephard and Inglewood United's Matt Wardle.  
PHOTO: PETER SIMCOX

and 53rd minutes and former Perth Glory midfielder David Micevski, who played against Glory for the State Team midweek, wrapped it up in the 69th minute.

It was a crucial win for the Knights, giving it its first victory since beating Floreat Athena in round 14.

Sorrento maintained its three-point gap in fifth spot with a 3-1 victory over Cockburn.

The Gulls are three points clear of Armadale in the last finals spot, an advantage it may need with both sides facing tough fixtures in the last four. After Steven Love gave Sorrento the lead in the first 11 minutes, Shane Nunes got Cockburn back in the game when he levelled the scores in the 52nd minute.

Sorrento piled on the pressure after that and put itself ahead in the 76th minute through tall striker Todd Harnwell, before midfielder Glen Thomas

guaranteed the points with a goal two minutes later.

It was Sorrento's first win since late June and a vital one in the finals race, while City has now lost its last three. Armadale kept its hopes of making the finals alive with a thrilling 3-2 win over ECU Joondalup.

The southern suburbs side stayed in the top six and within touching distance of a finals spot after it took a 3-0 first half advantage and held on to get the win.

Former Melbourne Victory and Perth Glory striker James Robinson had a brace for Army within 26 minutes, before Tom Robinson appeared to have wrapped up the points when he scored in the 34th minute.

Jamie Watt got ECU back in it early in the second period and an own goal in the 74th minute gave Joondalup hope, but Armadale held on for the vital win, which ended the northern

## NEXT ROUND

### Round 19

Sat 7 Aug 3PM  
Floreat Athena v Cockburn City  
E & D Litis Stadium

Sat 7 Aug 3PM  
ECU Joondalup v Stirling Lions  
ECU Joondalup

Sat 7 Aug 3PM  
Western Knights v Perth SC  
Nash Field

Sat 7 Aug 3PM  
Inglewood United v Armadale  
The Clipsal Stadium

Sat 7 Aug 3PM  
Mandurah City v Swan United  
Hyundai Stadium

Sat 7 Aug 3PM  
Balcatta v Sorrento  
Grindleford Reserve

## WA LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Western Knights	18	10	4	4	22	18	34	
2 Stirling Lions	18	10	4	4	30	21	9	34
3 Perth SC	18	10	2	6	38	32	6	32
4 Floreat Athena	18	8	5	5	36	22	14	29
5 Sorrento	18	8	4	6	33	34	-1	28
6 Armadale	18	7	4	7	30	30	0	25
7 ECU Joondalup	18	5	7	6	39	41	-2	22
8 Mandurah City	18	6	3	9	27	36	-9	21
9 Balcatta	18	6	2	10	29	40	-11	20
10 Swan United	18	4	7	7	24	30	-6	19
11 Inglewood United	18	5	4	9	25	37	-12	19
12 Cockburn City	18	4	4	10	27	33	-6	16

## WA RESULTS

First Team  
Armadale 3  
(J Robinson 21, 26, T Robinson 34)  
ECU Joondalup 2 (Watt 53, OG 74);

Swan United 3  
(Shephard 46, 70, Boland 89)  
Inglewood United 3  
(Stoitis 4, 57, Loncar 59);

Western Knights 4 (Versacio 37, Trim 44, 53,  
David Micevski 69)  
Balcatta 0;

Perth SC 3 (De Felice 49, 85, Oliveira 52)  
Mandurah City 0;

Cockburn City 1 (Nunes 52)  
Sorrento 3  
(Love 11, Harnwell 76, Thomas 78).

Stirling Lions 1 (Wilson 40)  
Floreat Athena 1 (Atak 65).

Reserves  
Armadale 2 ECU Joondalup 2; Swan United 2  
Inglewood United 3; Western Knights 2  
Balcatta 2; Perth SC 5 Mandurah City 0;  
Cockburn 1 Sorrento 2, Stirling Lions 5  
Floreat Athena 0.

Under 18's  
Armadale 3 ECU Joondalup 2; Swan United 2  
Inglewood United 5; Western Knights 2  
Balcatta 2; Perth SC 2 Mandurah City 1;  
Cockburn 1 Sorrento 2, Stirling Lions 3  
Floreat Athena 4.

DIVISION ONE  
Results – Saturday, 31 July 2010

First Team  
Bayswater City 3  
(Caniglia 7, McStea 28, 51)  
Dianella White Eagles 2  
(Bundy 86, Kalamaras 88);

Queens Park 1 (Conte 6)  
Canning City 3 (Bonser 21, Richardson 65,  
Navar 92);

Fremantle Spirit 1 (Louie 76)  
Wanneroo City 1 (Diav 50);

Forrestfield United 3  
(Hart 11, 41, Costley 24)  
Gosnells City 2  
(Pomfret 48, McDonald 82);

Bunbury Forum Force 4 (Rogers 16P, 28,  
72P, 87)  
Morley-Windmills 0;

Rockingham City 1 (Leckenby 20)  
Ashfield 0.

Reserves  
Bayswater City 1 Dianella White Eagles 3;  
Queens Park 1 Canning City 3; Fremantle  
Spirit 5 Wanneroo City 0; Forrestfield United  
4 Gosnells City 2; Bunbury Forum Force  
6 Morley-Windmills 0; Rockingham City 1  
Ashfield 4.

Under 18's  
Bayswater City 3 Dianella White Eagles 0;  
Queens Park 1 Canning City 4; Fremantle  
Spirit 5 Wanneroo City 0; Forrestfield United  
4 Gosnells City 1; Bunbury Forum Force 3  
Morley-Windmills 0 (Forfeit); Rockingham  
City 3 Ashfield 0.

## LATE GOALS WIN CALL TO ARMS CUP FOR GLORY

Perth Glory has won the 2010 Call To Arms Cup after two late goals saw the Hyundai A-League side defeat Western Australia 3-1 at E&D Litis Stadium.

Young stars Reece Vittiglio and Scott Neville both scored in injury-time to seal the win after WA were poised to retain the Cup if the scores remained level after 90 minutes.

The match was in aid of a good cause, with Football West Chairman Kevin Campbell presenting a cheque for \$1,000 to Cancer Council WA Community Fundraiser Coordinator Simmone Burns.

A crowd in excess of 3,000 packed into the Mount Hawthorn stadium and were treated to the State's best talent and fantastic entertainment including a live DJ, free face painting and a bouncy castle for the kids.

Glory captain on the evening, Mile Sterjovski, opened the scoring on the cusp of half-time before WA substitute Andreas Oliveira equalised with less than 20 minutes to play.

WA coach Peter Murphy was pleased with how his side performed, despite con-

ceding two late goals.

"For the boys to play the way they did against the Glory, it's a real credit to them," he said.

"OK they scored two goals in injury-time, but we've only had two training sessions in the lead-up to the match.

"Our second-half performance was brilliant and we are looking forward to the challenge again this time next year."

### Match details:

**Perth Glory 3 (Sterjovski 45', Vittiglio 90+1, Neville 90+2)**  
**Western Australia 1 (Oliveira 73')**

**Perth Glory:** Vrteski, Risdon, Sekulovski, Mitchell, J Coyne, Neville, McGarry, Pellegrino, Sterjovski (c), Fowler, Harnwell. **Substitutes used:** Velaphi, Baird, Jukic, Howarth, Fonyde, Griffiths, Vittiglio.

**Western Australia:** Sharrock, Cain, Nunes, Gavin, Wilson, Brown (c), Mikulic, Micevski, Shane Robinson, Naglieri, Webster. **Substitutes used:** Mirco, Oliveira, James



Football West Chairman Kevin Campbell and Cancer Council WA Community Fundraiser Coordinator Simmone Burns. PHOTO: ALAN MCDONALD

Robinson, Straker

Referee: Mathew Cheeseman @ E&D Li-

tis Stadium, Mt Hawthorn.  
Crowd: 3121

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# NO CHANGE TO FINAL FIVE AS EAGLES CELEBRATE

By Mike Salter

The upper half of the league ladder remained unchanged in the final round, as all five of the leading teams registered wins. The Bonnyrigg White Eagles celebrated their Premiership in emphatic style with a 5-1 trouncing of the West Sydney Berries at home. Blacktown City were big winners as well, putting six past Bankstown in a very one-sided affair at Jensen Park. Tolgay Ozbey finished a prolific season for Blacktown with another hat-trick.

Marconi, who have been in depressing form of late, at least signed off with a 1-0 win over Sydney Olympic, although they will need to be at their best to overcome an improving APIA side in the minor semi-final next week. APIA, for their part, held on to fourth spot with a somewhat unconvincing 3-1 win over the South Coast Wolves. Details of that one can be found below.

Sydney United hung on to third spot with a 1-0 win over Manly United. The Rockdale City Suns, exceeding all expectations in their first season in the NSW Premier League, had their faint finals hopes snuffed out by Sutherland, who ended their season with a 3-1 win at Seymour Shaw.

## APIA-Leichhardt 3-1 South Coast Wolves

Playing "away from base" at the Sydney Olympic Athletic Centre thanks to a recent rugby league fixture at their normal home ground, APIA-Leichhardt were unimpressive for much of the afternoon but still managed to see off a spirited challenge from the youthful South Coast side.

The hero of the afternoon was APIA's keeper Matthew Nash, who pulled off a string of fine saves to keep the visitors at bay.

After an indifferent start to the game, APIA opened the scoring with a messy set-piece goal after 12 minutes. Nick Rizzo, highly influential for APIA during the back end of the season, floated in a dangerous free kick which caused confusion in the Wolves' penalty area. The ball eventually broke to former Adelaide United striker Robbie Younis, who laid the ball off for Anthony Hartshorn to finish smartly.

The "hosts" kept the initiative following the goal, and went further in front ten minutes later. A through-ball from Franco Parisi sent Younis free on goal, and the big frontman was bundled over by Wolves keeper Brody Crane as he bullocked his way into the area. Younis picked himself up to thump the penalty home with his unforgiving left foot.

The Wolves looked dead and buried already, but they came back into the game somewhat unexpectedly on 25 minutes. The ball was pulled back from the left to diminutive midfielder Jason Trifiro, who fired at goal from 20 yards. Nash was wrong-footed, and the ball flew into the near corner. The APIA keeper would make up for his error, and then some, in the 65 minutes to come.

He began his rehabilitation with a swift dash off his line to smother a half-chance for Mark Picciolini after 29 minutes. Picciolini had another opportunity when he cleverly turned his defender and advanced on the right on 35 minutes, but his powerful low shot was deflected wide.

Nash again maintained his side's lead with five minutes remaining in the half, when Lisandro Berbis created a chance for himself with a spirited diagonal run



Bonnyrigg White Eagles are the toast of the town.

PHOTO: CARLOS FURTADO/FNSW

into the box. The APIA keeper did well to hold on to Berbis's eventual goal-bound drive.

The second half began with the Wolves in the ascendancy, as APIA began to look listless. A dizzying move from the away side on 53 minutes ended with a ball played across the box for Tynan Diaz, whose right-footed piledriver was saved alertly by Nash. Three minutes later, Nick McInerney moved up from right-back and sent in a dangerous cross, which was headed just wide of Nash's goal by Chris Nathaniel.

The Wolves continued to create all the chances. Diaz's shot just after the hour was deflected to substitute Samet Kaynak, who steered a shot just wide of the far post. On 75 minutes, McInerney was mysteriously allowed to run through the entire APIA midfield and backline without hindrance, eventually letting fly from 15 yards. Nash, once again, saved superbly.

Nash repeated the feat eight minutes later. Again, McInerney had surged forward from the back; playing the ball to Picciolini, the Wolves right-back was there to receive the ball again when his team-mate was tackled. Another powerful right-footed whack, another great save from Nash.

As if he still hadn't done enough, Nash was on hand again to cover Nathaniel's shot at goal three minutes from the end. By that point, APIA had begun to create a few chances of their own on the break, and they issued due warning when Stephen Kayes went close after connecting with Younis's cut-back on 89 minutes.

APIA added some gloss to the result with a goal in injury time. Parisi floated over a cross from the right, and Rizzo did well to jab the ball past the advancing Crane. The ball crept over the line, and the goal was given despite a desperate clearance from a Wolves defender.

## NSW LADDER

	P	W	L	Pts
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	22	13	6	45
Blacktown City FC	22	12	4	40
Sydney United	22	11	6	39
APIA Leichhardt Tigers	22	12	3	39
Marconi Stallions	22	11	3	36
Sutherland Sharks	22	9	4	31
Rockdale City Suns	22	6	12	30
Bankstown City	22	7	5	26
Manly United FC	22	7	4	25
South Coast Wolves	22	6	4	22
Sydney Olympic	22	6	3	21
West Sydney Berries	22	2	6	12

## NSW RESULTS

### NSW PREMIER LEAGUE: ROUND 22: FIRST GRADE:

Bonnyrigg White Eagles 5 (Daniel Severino 21/41m Nathan Elasi 42m Jamie McMaster 82m D.Gullo 88m) West Sydney Berries 1 (Stefan De Jesus 47m),

Bankstown City Lions 1 (George Nohra 59m) Blacktown City FC 6 (Tolgay Ozbey 22/42/52m Joel Chianese 65m Luke Roodenburg 75m Christopher Bedzo 87m),

APIA Leichhardt 3 (Anthony Hartshorn 12m Robert Younis 22m pen Nicola Rizzo 91m) South Coast Wolves 1 (Jason Trifiro 25m),

Marconi Stallions 1 (Jason Naidovski 67m) Sydney Olympic 0,

Sutherland Sharks 3 (Jim Bakis 14m pen Neil Jablonski 44m Benjamin Vidiac 84m) Rockdale City Suns 1 (Sam Awad 82m),

Sydney United 1 (Mitchell Thompson 49m) Manly United FC 0.

GRADE 20: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 5 West Sydney Berries 1, Bankstown City Lions 2 Blacktown City FC 3, APIA Leichhardt 2 South Coast Wolves 1, Marconi Stallions 1 Sydney Olympic 0, Sutherland Sharks 5 Rockdale City Suns 2, Sydney United 2 Manly United FC 1.

SUPER LEAGUE: ROUND 20: FIRST GRADE: Dulwich Hill Spirit FC Washed Out, Sydney University 1 (L Delaney 30m) Parramatta Eagles 4 (K Elrich 9/34/50m S Ardle 47m), Granville Rage Fraser Park Washed Out, Northern Tigers 2 (T Spencer 8m M Gianville 77m) Central Coast Lightning 0, Mt Druitt Town Rangers FC Bossy Liverpool Washed Out, St George FC Macarthur Rams Washed Out, Dulwich Hill Spirit FC Washed Out, Sydney University 1 (L Delaney 30m) Parramatta Eagles 4 (K Elrich 9/34/50m S Ardle 47m).

GRADE 20: Granville Rage Fraser Park Washed Out, Northern Tigers 0 Central Coast Lightning 0, Mt Druitt Town Rangers FC Bossy Liverpool Washed Out, St George FC Macarthur Rams Washed Out.

DIVISION ONE: ROUND 20: FIRST GRADE: Balmain SC Stanmore Hawks Washed Out, Schofield Scorpions Hills Brumbies Washed Out, Mounties Wanderers Blacktown Spartans Washed Out.

GRADE 20: Balmain SC Stanmore Hawks Washed Out, Schofield Scorpions Hills Brumbies Washed Out, Mounties Wanderers Blacktown Spartans Washed Out.

DIVISION TWO: ROUND 19: FIRST GRADE: Hawkesbury City SC 3 (M McCrory 21/32m D McKay 34m) Gazy Lansvale 4 (W Derbass 9m H Merdanovic 42m T Spiteri 54m M Amed 63m), Bathurst '75 Fairfield Bulls Washed Out, Hawkesbury City SC 3 (M McCrory 21/32m D McKay 34m) Gazy Lansvale 4 (W Derbass 9m H Merdanovic 42m T Spiteri 54m M Amed 63m), Bathurst '75 Fairfield Bulls Washed Out.

## FNSW FINALS

**Elimination Final**  
APIA Leichhardt Tigers vs Marconi Stallions 7:00 PM Sat 7/Aug

**Qualifying Final**  
Blacktown City FC vs Sydney United 3:00 PM Sun 8/Aug

**Venues TBA.**  
Please check FNW website for details.



Bonnyrigg White Eagles celebrate with the 2010 FNSW Minor Premiership after finishing top of the home and away standings.

PHOTO: CARLOS FURTADO/FNSW

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# Driving abroad for the answers

By Con Stamocostas

**More foreign coaches have entered Australia this year than a Greyhound depot. The A League has more foreign managers than Telstra.**

More foreign bosses than a? (choose your own punch line)

SBS senior and junior football analyst unite as this season there will be more foreigners in charge of A-League clubs than ever before and only one Australian born coach out of all the 11 teams competing in season six of the A League. Okay so Ricky Herbert is a Kiwi coaching the New Zealand based Wellington Phoenix but according to the Asian Football Confederation and the Football Federation Australia the Nix are considered Australian. Confused? You should be. Australia is part of Asia and Wellington is part of Australia.

So this season more than any we will privy to a whole bunch of different excuses when your team loses. Nothing like bringing in experienced European excuses for Australian football fans to learn from.

And then best and funniest excuse maker of them all is Newcastle Jets boss Branko Culina. Who famously said during a press conference after losing to Sydney FC last year: "I don't care what their coach says and the fact that he's on \$500,000 and I'm on 50 bucks or whatever it is, but if that's what the foreigners are going to bring to this game, let's have more local coached," Culina said.

But just last week it seemed that Culina has changed his tune on the foreign invasion. Culina was quoted as saying that he believed that coaches with experiences overseas are a valuable asset to the A-League:

"Like there's a need for quality overseas players, there's a need for quality overseas coaches as well," Culina said.

"If they're quality, at the end of the day, that's what we want for the game."

Then came a well known German trick called the backhanded compliment. On one hand saying that foreigners can help make the league better and on the other hand he was saying that they could struggle:

"One thing I do know of foreign coaches is that they are used to working with different conditions and resources and if they're not provided with those resources maybe the impact may not be as great."

I agree with Uncle Branko as he was known while he coached Sydney FC. How will these the Experienced

European excuse makers deal with football being the number four sport during the NRL/AFL and Union seasons? And what about being number three behind Cricket and Netball during the summer seasons?

Other problems the foreign legion will have to face are the majority of A League games being played on sub-standard pitches. Also they will also have to deal with smaller size squads, as there are no reserve squads just youth league. You can also argue that the best old players and young players are already playing in overseas leagues. Over 130 Australian born players ply their trades in leagues all across the world. Also the support staff is minimal compared to other professional clubs.

So to the new coaches: Its Czech Mate said the very smart university educated editor of your favourite football website: After Vitezlav Lavicka took Sydney FC to a historic double winning the Premiers Plate and The Championship North Queensland Fury got in Franz Straka showing that when it comes to Australia's football progression it's mostly about trends and copying others and hoping that it works twice.

Franz Straka coaching record according to the keeper of all the secrets Wikipedia

1999–2001 Wuppertaler SV

2002–2004 FK Teplice

2004 AC Sparta Praha

2005 LR Ahlen

2006 Viktoria Plzeň

2006–2007 FC Wacker Tirol

2007–2008 Dynamo České Budějovice

2008 OFI Crete

2009 Czech Republic

2009–2010 MFK Ružomberok

Pass the Dutchie on the left hand side said another University educated football writer:

Two new Dutch coaches join the ever growing Dutch Mafia: The first to come was the new Melbourne Heart coach John van 't Schip. How do you go from being an assistant coach of the Dutch national team and Ajax and then coach a club like Melbourne Heart? Who for their first ever match in the A League have a projected crowd figure of 5000 people for their opening game?

Also the name if John van 't Schip was born in Australia I'm sure he's school mates would have Aussified his name real quick:

John can't Spit, John can't Skip, and John's can't sh... Well, you get the drift.



Frank Straka



John van 't Schip



Rini Coolen



A Greyhound bus on its way to an A-league game

According to the keeper of all the secrets Wikipedia from 1997 to 2009 John van 't Schip has this coaching record:

1997–2000 Ajax (Youth coach)  
2000–2001 Ajax (Assistant coach)  
2001–2002 FC Twente  
2002–2004 Ajax B  
2004–2008 Netherlands (Asst coach)  
2008–2009 Ajax (Assistant coach)  
2009 Ajax (Interim coach)  
2009– Melbourne Heart

Rini Coolen is the second Dutchie to join the A League and he is in charge of Adelaide United. He joins the Reds after the FFA decided to make the coach of last year's A League's bottom side the new National Assistant coach and senior coach of the Olympics side. It follows FFA's form of hiring coaches with mediocre coaching records. Okay Guss Hiddink was an aberration that shouldn't take away from the WTF point I'm trying to make.

Coolen and the Gang's coaching record

1996–1999 Heracles Almelo (Asst coach)  
1999–2002 FC Twente (coach second team)  
2002–2004 FC Twente (assistant coach)  
2004–2006 FC Twente  
2006–2007 AGOVV Apeldoorn  
2008–2010 RBC Roosendaal  
2010–present Adelaide United

#### What about us Aussies?

Graham Arnold is the only Australian born coach in the A League. He will bring with him fresh ideas like these decisions he made during the failed Olyroos 2008 Beijing Olympic campaign:

A) Matt Simon being picked ahead of Nathan Burns, Brice Djite and Dario Vidovic.

B) Choosing Jade North as one of the over-aged players and playing with a back five with three central defenders

Graham Arnold

after playing with a totally different formation in qualifying.

C) And my favourite from the Olympics campaign: using Nikolai Topor Stanley as a make shift striker.

With Nick Mrdja, Daniel McBreen and Mat Simon as your strikers expect the ball to move from the ground to the air very quickly. And what a waste of talent prepare for Argentine midfieler and Messi's former BFF Patricio Perez to get neck pains.

So why go overseas for your coach? One theory is that Australian players don't respond well to local coaches. Especially since Pim Verbeek said training in Europe is better than playing in the A League. Well fuck you Pim Verbeek! New Zealand A League coach Ricky Herbert and A League players like Shane Smeltz and Leo Bertos showed the world that drawing against Italy is better than getting smashed 4-1 against Germany.

And the number one coaching tip for season six is?

Shoot Farken!



# AEK ROMP HOME IN FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL

By Mike Salter

AEK Athens were a class above their opposition in the inaugural Sydney Festival of Football, whose final two rounds were held on Wednesday July 28 and Saturday July 31. AEK topped the four-team table with a whopping 17 points, the competition employing the result-plus-goals system occasionally used in pre-season friendly events. Blackburn Rovers finished in second place with seven points following their last-round win over Sydney FC; Glasgow Rangers were third with six points, while hosts Sydney gained a creditable five.

AEK saw off Blackburn on Wednesday thanks to a smooth first-half performance in which they ran rings around the English Premier League side at times. The first goal was a masterpiece of flowing, attacking football, with former Adelaide United man Nathan Burns at the heart of things; his surging run down the right was followed by a smart cut-back, and Nikos Liberopoulos touched the ball aside for Argentinian striker Ignacio Scocco to finish sweetly with his right foot.

Burns was involved again when AEK went two ahead, touching the ball back neatly for Brazilian frontman Leonardo Pereira Rodrigues, who played the ball across the box for Liberopoulos, surely the player of the tournament, to supply a classy finish. Blackburn made the score respectable in the second half, when teenage defender Phil Jones headed in a fine cross from Morten Gamst Pedersen eight minutes from the close.

On the same night, Sydney FC and Glasgow Rangers played out a stultifying goalless draw in admittedly difficult conditions. Rangers' young winger Kyle Lafferty provided a couple of bright moments in the first half with some twisting runs, but the rest of the Scottish side failed to follow his lead. There were two good chances for either side within a minute in the second half, Maurice Edu's header requiring a good save from Sydney's Liam Reddy before the home side's trialist Ibrahima Thiambé nearly curled a ball in from the edge of the area. That, however, was as exciting as the game was to get.



AEK keeper Saja Diego Sebastian fists the ball away in the match against Rangers on Saturday night.. PHOTO: SYDNEY LOW

AEK completed their clean sweep of the tournament with a 1-0 win over Rangers on the Saturday, and fittingly it was local boy Burns who provided the winner on 73 minutes. Following another eye-catching AEK move through the midfield, the ball was played out to Nikos Karambelas on the left; an accurate cross, a mighty jump from the boy from Blayney, and AEK had their win. With an impressive goal and two assists at the tournament, Burns has definitely

staked a good claim for a starting berth at the Athenian club in 2010/11.

Blackburn Rovers dusted themselves off after two successive losses to post a 2-1 win over Sydney FC, and again an Australian playing abroad got on the scoresheet. This time it was Brett Emerton, controlling a long free kick on his chest before firing an overhead kick inexorably past Reddy. In the second half Sam Allardyce's side doubled their lead when a cross from

young David Hoilett was deflected into the path of Pedersen, who tucked the ball home from close range. Late in the second half, Alex Brosque latched onto a clever pass from Brendan Gan to score a good goal for the hosts. Teenage starlet Terry Antonis came on in the final minutes, and showed impressive poise and skill against quality opposition.

Despite the somewhat disappointing crowds, the experience was an immeasur-

ably valuable one for Sydney FC and their coaching staff, and the spectacle of a pre-season quadrangular tournament featuring three distinguished European sides should bring a smile to the face of all Australian football fans. The intention is for the Festival to become an annual event, and more local fans will surely attend if the event can be promoted a little more aggressively in future years.

## Blackburn Rovers down Sydney FC 2-1

By Ben Hawes

**Hyundai A-League Champions Sydney FC** played out an entertaining 2-1 loss to English Premier League side Blackburn Rovers in the final game of the Sydney Festival of Football at the Sydney Football Stadium on Saturday night.

Despite the score line the Sky Blues can take a lot away from their spirited performance.

The result sees AEK Athens take out the inaugural Festival of Football with a total of 17 points. Sydney FC finished fourth with 5 points only inches behind third placed Rangers FC with six points, and second place Blackburn on 7.

The match saw Vitezslav Lavicka make three changes from Wednesday night's hard fought goalless draw over Rangers FC. Alex Brosque being reunited with striking partner Mark Bridge and Anthony Golec replaced the unavailable Stephan Keller.

Stuart Musialik also returned for Sydney making his first start since last season's grand final victory over the Melbourne Victory.

The Sky Blues took the field in black arm-bands, remembering the grandfather of defender Sung-Hwan Byun and grandmother of striker Mark Bridge, who both sadly passed away during the week.

In an entertaining first half Blackburn created the first chance of the match in the 1st minute with El Hadji Diouf firing an early warning shot from the left hand side of the box which was well held by goalkeeper

Liam Reddy.

Inside the first quarter of an hour the Rovers had two more chances to open the scoring. Morten Gamst Pedersen's free kick in the 9th minute caused confusion before Sky Blues captain Terry McFlynn was forced to head the ball clear of the goal line.

Shortly afterwards, a miscued cross from Michel Salgado forced Reddy to produce a stunning save, tipping the ball onto the bar as the ball looked destined to find the back of the net.

Blackburn's early dominance almost paid dividends when some Diouf trickery on the right flank created space for Martin Olsson who's ball found an unmarked Pedersen in the box, but he could only header over the bar.

The Sky Blues best chance of the half came as a result of a thrilling counter attack in the 16th minute when a Brosque back heel almost found its way past goalkeeper Michael Dunn after a great interplay from Nick Carle and Bridge.

Sydney local Brett Emerton opened the scoring for Blackburn in the 37th minute after gathering a Steven N'Zonzi flick-on from a Gael Givet long ball. The Qantas

Socceroos international experience showed as he chested the ball down calmly to turn and finish past goalkeeper Reddy.

In the dying stages of the first half Sydney had a genuine opportunity to pull level. After a scintillating run down the left flank, Byun drove in a dangerous ball towards Brosque who was muscled off the ball by Rovers captain Ryan Nelsen. During the halftime interval, both coaches refrained from making any changes to

their side. However Sydney were forced to make a change in the 62nd minute, Brendan Gan replacing McFlynn after he was forced to the sidelines after picking up a head knock.

The Sky Blues dynamic duo of Carle and Bridge created another glorious opportunity 65th minute. Following a midfield counter attack by Bridge the ball was played into Carle, who fed the ball back to the unmarked Bridge who narrowly steered his shot wide on the Blackburn goal.

Despite their entertaining brand of football Sydney were unfortunate to find themselves down 2-0 in the 67th minute as substitutes Junior Hoilett and Keith Andrews combined well to find Pedersen who finished from close range.

The Sky Blues were to grab the goal they deserved though as another fine attacking move saw Gan play a delicate ball through to Brosque who took a touch and finessed his shot past Dunn into the bottom right hand corner of the goal in the 81st minute.

The goal was to be Brosque's last involvement in the game as he was replaced by sixteen year-old child prodigy Terry Antonis for final stages of the game.

Following a display of attacking dominance, Sydney were unfortunate not to draw level moments later when a swirling long range effort from Shannon Cole, destined for the top left hand corner, was tipped over by Dunn.

For the remainder of the game the Sky Blues continued to attack Blackburn's goal, however they failed to find their way through their defence as the score remained 2-1.



Sydney FC's Mark Bridge goes in to battle against Rangers on Wednesday night. PHOTOS: GEOFF JONES

### Match Details:

**Sydney FC:** 1 (14. Alex Brosque 81')  
**Blackburn Rovers:** 2 (7. Brett EMERTON 37', 9. Morten GAMST PEDERSEN 67')

**Sydney FC Line-up:** 1. Liam REDDY (gk), 2. Sebastian RYALL, 8. Stuart MU-SIALIK (28. Hiro MORIYASU 65'), 10. Nicky CARLE (23. Rhyan GRANT 76'), 12. Shannon COLE, 13. Antony GOLEC, 14. Alex BROSQUE (24. Terry ANTONIS

82'), 15. Terry MCFLYNN (7. Brendan GAN 62'), 19. Mark BRIDGE (11. Kofi DANNING 80'), 21. Scott JAMIESON, 22. Sung-Hwan BYUN.

**Substitutes Not Used:** 17. Matt Jurman, 18. David GULLO, 20. Ivan NECEVSKI (gk), 30. Dylan MITCHELL (gk).  
**Yellow Cards:** Nil.  
**Red Cards:** Nil.

**Goals:** 14. Alex BROSQUE 81'.



# Relegation and fourth spot still the issues

By Walter Pless

**South Hobart may have won the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League weeks ago, but there is still much to play for in the south of the island State.**

Relegation has yet to be decided, and the fight for that important fourth spot is still on.

Tarooma appear doomed, although they do have a game in hand over Olympia Warriors, even though it is against champions South Hobart.

Olympia were second last going into the weekend and level on points with Tarooma. They also had the advantage of a better goal-difference than Tarooma.

A 3-2 away win over sixth-placed Kingborough Lions United on Saturday moved Olympia three points clear of Tarooma and did wonders for morale with just two matches remaining.

Goals by Brady Cronk and Chris Kumpulainen, and a penalty by Ben Phillips, did the trick for Olympia. Replies from Marcello Marchioli and Andrew Davies were not enough to save the Lions.

Fifth-placed New Town Eagles beat fourth-ranked Clarence United 3-0 at home at Clare Street on Saturday to move within three points of Clarence with two matches remaining.

A place in the top-four finals series is now within reach for Eagles, although

their remaining games are against South Hobart and second-placed Tilford Zebras.

The first half at Clare Street was a dull affair, with long-range efforts by Eagles' Adam McKeown being the only distinguishing features for the sparse crowd.

The second half sparked into life, however, when Clarence's Sam McIntyre smacked a great shot from the right against the Eagles crossbar in the

A minute later, Ben Whitehall landed a speculative lob on top of the Clarence crossbar and battle had clearly been joined.

Another minute and Eagles took the lead when diminutive midfielder Ethan Menzie left Clarence captain and central defender Ben Parker sprawled on the ground and cut in from the left before placing a perfect shot beyond keeper Cameron Sweeney and inside the far post.

Whitehall then came into his own on the right and Eagles scored two more goals within three minutes from his crosses to kill off the visitors' challenge.

In the 81st minute, Whitehall floated a cross from the right to the far side of the box, where substitute David Cox nodded the ball back across goal for McKeown to volley home.

Two minute later, another perfect Whitehall cross from the right was headed home by Cox to complete the

victory.

Tilford Zebras should finish second after beating third-placed Glenorchy Knights 1-0 at KGV Park on Saturday night. The sides had been level on points before the game and only a better goal-difference had put Zebras ahead.

It was an uninspiring match and the Knights were handicapped by the absence of key players Josh Fielding and Corey Smith.

After a goalless opening half, Zebras won the match in the 71st minute when former Knights player Jonathon Ladic scored.

Knights goalkeeper Ben Peter had saved his side with excellent saves up until then from Henry Fagg and Jayden Welsh, but it was his wayward punch that presented Ladic with the goal.

Paul Cairns had released Dwayne Walsh on the left and Peter punched his cross straight to the feet of Ladic, who hammered the ball straight back and in off the right-hand post.

In the Northern Premier League, Northern Rangers are just a win away from retaining their title after they downed second-last Launceston City 5-4 away. Devonport City lost ground after suffering a 3-1 defeat at home against Burnie United.

Somerset came back from 3-0 down to beat bottom-side Launceston United 4-3, while Ulverstone succumbed at home 2-0 to Riverside Olympic

## NORTH RESULTS

Somerset 4 defeated Launceston United 3  
Ulverstone 0 lost to Riverside Olympic 2

## SOUTH RESULTS

Glenorchy Knights 0 lost to Tilford Zebras 1  
Kingborough Lions 2 lost to Olympia FC Warriors 3  
New Town Eagles 3 defeated Clarence United 0

## NORTH LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northern Rangers	13	10	3	0	47	18	33
Devonport City	13	10	2	1	46	19	32
Burnie United	14	8	0	6	48	30	24
Riverside Olympic	14	8	2	4	42	24	26
Ulverstone	14	6	2	6	38	30	20
Prospect Knights	14	6	2	6	38	34	20
Somerset	14	6	0	8	35	50	18
Launceston City	13	2	1	10	24	38	7
Launceston United	15	0	0	15	15	90	0

## SOUTH LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	18	16	2	0	55	13	50
Tilford Zebras	19	10	4	5	44	34	34
Glenorchy Knights	19	9	4	6	36	33	31
Clarence United	19	7	6	6	37	37	27
New Town Eagles	19	6	6	7	36	33	24
Kingborough Lions	19	6	3	10	25	36	21
Olympia FC Warriors	19	2	6	11	22	42	12
Tarooma	18	2	3	13	20	47	9

## NTH NEXT ROUND

**Round 17**  
 Saturday 7th August  
 Launceston City v Ulverstone  
 Mitsubishi Park 2.30pm  
 Launceston United v Prospect Knights Birch Avenue 2.30pm  
 Riverside Olympic v Devonport City Windsor Park 2.30pm  
 Somerset v Northern Rangers Cardigan Street 2.30pm  
 Burnie United - Bye

## STH NEXT ROUND

**Round 20**  
 Saturday 7th August  
 Tarooma v Kingborough Lions  
 Kelvedon Park 2.30pm  
 Hobart Olympia v Glenorchy Knights South Hobart 2.30pm  
 Clarence United v South Hobart  
 Wentworth Park 2.6.30pm  
  
 Sunday 8th August  
 New Town Eagles v Tilford Zebras  
 Clare Street 2.30pm



Eagles midfielder Michael Anderson breaks clear as team-mate Mark Page looks on. PHOTO: WALTER PLESS



Eagles' Blayne Hudson gets a header in ahead of Clarence's Luke Huigslot. PHOTO: WALTER PLESS

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# BLUE EAGLES HOT TO TROT AND CHASING TOP SPOT

By Nat Adamopoulos

Adelaide Blue Eagles can still mathematically gain minor league premiership if results go their way after orchestrating a well fought victory over MetroStars, downing the league leaders 2-0 at Marden Sports Complex with goals coming from youngster Nicholas Bucco and Evan Kounavelis. The Blue Eagles are the only club to have beaten the 2009 Champions not once but twice this season, giving Coach Zoran Karadzic even more to smile about on the same day that his induction to the FFSA Football Hall Of Fame for 2010 was announced.

Despite being without both his strikers Saranti Parisos (suspended) and Chad Bugeja (injured), Karadzic's side started the game strongly with zippy speedster Fortunato Filletti and young gun Evan Kounavelis on each flank, overlapping and pushing up continually to give the MetroStars backline plenty of work to do. First time starter Nicholas Bucco was featuring heavily, racking up plenty of possession and playing with extreme maturity to make his mark on the game. The Eagles were creating concerns for the normally solid league leaders, with the engine room of Mitch Nicholson, Adam Vizzari, Damian Di Mella and Bucco all working overtime to put the pressure on and keep their opponents under the pump. Kounavelis was the obvious target man as team mates were looking for and finding him time after time, but the opportunities presented were either sent wide or were easily taken care of by keeper Daniel Godley. The last fifteen minutes of the first half became a rather heated affair, tempers flying as harsh tackles were being put in by both sides giving referee Parry plenty of work to do as cards were given out left, right and centre. A frustrated Vizzari found himself lucky to be still on the park with ten to go, as he made a crude challenge on MetroStars Steven Grelli, bringing him down heavily only to receive a yellow card. Di Mella then had his chance to go hero, getting on the end of a poor clearance from MetroStars Captain Ivan Karlovich from in front of goal, but his shot going wide of the mark. Referee Parry seemed to be losing control of the match as Eagle Mitch Nicholson copped a studs up tackle from Stars defender Dave Menechella, the youngster receiving his second piece of special attention from his opponents, again only a yellow card being shown. Relief was the only look that both coaches had on their faces as they were happy to hear the half time whistle to



Zoran and Blue Eagles: Coach Zoran Karadzic ponders on the possible outcome on the clash with the league leaders and his lads.

PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

muster up their chargers and regain some composure for the rest of the match.

Karadzic's speech obviously worked as it only took three minutes into the second half for the side to take the lead, care of some great evasive football. A half chance by the visitors was cleared by Eagles keeper De Lucia, which found Nicholson, he in turn fed the ball to danger man Kounavelis taking a run down the left of the park, shrugging off three defenders to cross in a ball that caught the rest of the MetroStars defence napping but saw Bucco put away easily.

The reaction of the home side was euphoric, as all players met the young Bucco and proceeded to conduct a 'stacks on' post goal celebration in his honour.

The following ten minutes saw MetroStars get themselves back into the game somewhat, as Michael Matricciani, Perry Mitris and Louis Brain were in an around the goal mouth but unable to penetrate the defensive backline of the Blue Eagles.

MetroStars coach David Terminello made his first change in the 61st minute taking defender Menechella off for midfielder Michael Pirone reshuffling his side

but the change didn't pay off. Just one minute later, Kounavelis who had been galloping around the pitch the whole game, showed off his sleeky skills when dispossessing Daniel Meteyear just outside the box and took a shot that bounced awkwardly in front of a diving Godley and over his head into the back of the net.

The defence of Metros were made to look ordinary by the Eagles side, as continual forward attack was the modus operandi of Karadzic's steeds. One has to feel for Eagles striker Kym Harris, who usually is so dangerous up front but was made relatively ineffective in this match by the hard work of Karlovic.

James Yong was brought on for Metro to partner up with Matricciani but neither were able to crack the Eagles defence. Bucco almost made it a brace late in the game as his shot hit the upright much to the relief of Godley but to the disappointment of the young lad. Karadzic's first change was to bring Delkic on for Harris to relieve the youngster of the tough match he had, and later Bucco was forced off due to cramping with twin brother Adam Harris coming on.



Stacks on: Somewhere underneath all that is full game debutante Nicholas Bucco after he scored the first goal in the 48th minute of the match. PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

## SUPER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
MetroStars	16	10	4	2	35	17	18	34
Adelaide Blue Eagles	16	8	4	4	36	21	15	28
Campbelltown	16	7	5	4	26	20	6	26
Para Hills	16	7	5	4	21	19	2	26
Adelaide City	16	8	2	6	22	24	-2	26
Western Strikers	16	4	7	5	29	31	-2	19
Adelaide Galaxy	16	4	7	5	19	21	-2	19
Raiders	16	4	5	7	17	22	-5	17
Adelaide Cobras	16	5	2	9	22	34	-12	17
Cumberland Utd	16	1	3	12	17	35	-18	6

## NEXT ROUND

### Round 17

Sat 07/08/2010

Adelaide Blue Eagles vs Adelaide Galaxy

3pm Marden Sports Complex

Adelaide Cobras vs Western Strikers

3pm Carnegie Reserve

Campbelltown vs Adelaide City

3pm Newton Village Sports Complex

Cumberland Utd vs Para Hills

3pm Bailey Reserve

MetroStars vs Raiders

3pm T.K. Shutter Reserve

## PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Modbury	16	11	2	3	43	21	22	35
Croydon	16	9	4	3	29	17	12	31
Adelaide Comets	16	8	1	7	30	28	2	25
Enfield City	16	6	4	6	26	25	1	24
Pirates	16	5	6	5	27	24	3	21
Adelaide Hills	16	6	1	9	29	31	-2	19
Salisbury Utd	16	6	1	9	21	32	-11	19
Adelaide Olympic	16	4	6	6	24	24	0	18
White City Woodville	16	4	4	8	21	25	-4	16
West Adelaide	16	5	1	10	16	39	-23	16

The long ball game was being played by the visitors, pumping balls over the top to avoid the strong midfield of the Eagles. Matricciani stepped up as the game came to an end as he did last week and had several chances which were cut off abruptly by Eagles defenders Dean Kenrick, Chris Annichiarico and Gianluca Lagati. With only minutes to go Godley pulled off a fantastic save to stop a third goal for the Eagles care of a charging Filletti. As the final whistle was blown the win was savoured by Eagles players, fans and coach alike, knowing very well they had beaten the top side for the second time this season and were in the hunt for top spot.

Other results around the grounds for Round 16 saw two Friday night matches being held between sides sitting at the bottom of the table. Raiders successfully won themselves a lifeline and a momentary breather from relegation with a 2-1 victory against Western Strikers at Carnegie Reserve. John Kosmina's lads put in a strong showing to get over the top of the home side who themselves have pulled out some good results this season thanks to some great signings in Japanese keeper Takumi Takahashi and UK imports Chris Middleton and Callum Flanagan.

Raiders youngster Michael Harvey bagged both goals for his side and is looking a promising acquisition for the future of the club while Strikers lighting flash Jordan Spadavecchia who has also had a very good season scored for the home side.

The other Friday night match saw Adelaide Galaxy at home to Premier League bound side Cumberland United, punishing the visitors to a 2-0 defeat with goals care of Brett Rayner and Adrian Macolino. Adelaide City made fifth spot theirs and now untouchable as they defeated Para Hills Knights at Adelaide City Park with Brazilian Riccardo Da Silva scoring the only goal for the match.

At Weigall Reserve Adelaide Cobras were thrown into the second relegation spot as they fought out a scoreless draw against third placed Campbelltown City. Its almost hard to believe as the Cobras

## SA RESULTS

### DEVINE HOMES SUPER LEAGUE

#### Round 16 Results

Adelaide Galaxy	2	(B.Rayner, A.Macolino)
Cumberland United	0	(HT 1-0)
Best - Galaxy	(B.Rayner, A.Macolino, C.Christophersen)	Cumberland (N.Young, R.Lippett, T.Briscoe)
Raiders	2	(M.Harvey 2)
Adelaide Cobras	1	(N.Bucco, E.Kounavelis)
U19 - Galaxy	0	Cumberland 4
Western Strikers	1	(J.Spadavecchia)
Raiders	2	(M.Harvey 2)
Best - Strikers	(C.Middleton, T.Takahashi, M.Russo)	Raiders (M.Harvey, D.Hain, C.Goodwin)
Res - Galaxy	1	Cumberland 2
U19 - Strikers	2	Raiders 1

Adelaide Blue Eagles	2	(N.Bucco, E.Kounavelis)
MetroStars	0	(HT 0-0)
Best - Blue Eagles	(E.Kounavelis, A.Vizzari, C.Annichiarico)	MetroStars (I.Karlovic, L.Robertson, M.Matricciani)
Res - Blue Eagles	0	MetroStars 0
U19 - Blue Eagles	0	MetroStars 5

Adelaide Cobras	0	Cumberland City 0
Cumberland City	0	(HT 0-0)
Best - Cobras	(O.Totani, D.Milovanovic, A.Costanzo)	Cumberland (P.Sapa, R.Frisina, D.Signoriello)
Res - Cobras	0	Adel City 4
U19 - Cobras	1	Adel City 2

### Reserves & Under 19 Matches postponed

Para Hills	0	Adelaide City 1 (R.DaSilva) (HT 0-1)
Best - Para Hills	(A.Goulding, Ma.Mullen, S.Tobias)	Adel City (M.Halliday, J.Negus, P.Pezos)
Res - Para Hills	0	Adel City 4
U19 - Para Hills	1	Adel City 2

### DEVINE HOMES PREMIER LEAGUE

Modbury	1	(R.Devlin)
Adelaide Olympic	1	(A.Orlando)
(HT 1-1)		
Best - Modbury	(T.McSorley, R.Devlin, D.Crowl)	Olympic (A.Orlando, M.Milosevic, R.Marveggio)
Res - Modbury	5	Olympic 2
U19 - Modbury	6	Olympic 0

Adelaide Hills	3	(S.Bowman 3)
West Adelaide 1	(M.Alexandrou)	(HT 1-0)
Best - Adelaide Hills	(S.Bowman, C.Bowman, N.Rathjen)	West Adel (T.Hatzis, K.Tsacos, D.Lambrinos)
Res - Adelaide Hills	vs West Adel (Postponed)	U19 - Adelaide Hills 1 West Adel 4

Pirates 1	(C.Adcock)
Enfield City 1	(J.Costa)
(HT 0-0)	
Best - Pirates	(C.Adcock, J.Mavromatis, C.Alagich)
Enfield (R.Fimmano, C.Marwe, J.Costa)	
Res - Pirates 3	Enfield 4
U19 - Pirates 1	Enfield 2

Salisbury United	3	(S.Lindsay, S.Butler, E.Camarinha)

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# Sunshine Coast Clinches Premiership in Style

By Kane Frampton

**Round Nineteen of the Hyundai Queensland State League has seen the Sunshine Coast Fire clinch the Premiership after cruising to a 5-1 victory over the Whitsunday Miners.**

Knowing that a victory over the seventh-placed Miners would make certain of a second premiership for the Sunshine Coast, the Fire started off on the right foot and a superb angled header from Aaron Brazendale in the 19th minute opened the scoring and settled any nerves. From then on it was the Shaun Blackman show, as the Fire's skipper ran riot with four goals to put paid to the Whitsunday side.

The first of Blackman's swag of goals came from a set piece, when star midfielder Tyson Holmes collected a corner kick at the far post and nodded to the advantage of Blackman, who popped the ball home with minimum fuss. Holmes and Blackman combined again on 34 minutes for the Fire's third goal, with the captain beating Miners keeper Brett Gutteridge from close range.

In a half dominated by the Sunshine Coast, more goals looked likely as half-time came with the scores 3-0. After the interval, Blackman had a hat-trick within minutes after staying calm under pressure in the penalty area and slotting home. With the lead at 4-0, the Fire took their foot off the pedal to an extent, allowing Miners captain Graham Harvey to net a consolation goal for his side with a well-taken header.

After the Fire failed to add another goal from the penalty spot, Blackman netted his fourth when he collected a fine cross from Josh Taylor on the right flank and swept the ball home. It was to be the final goal of the match, as the Sunshine Coast recorded a 5-1 victory and made certain of the HQSL Premiership with two rounds to play.

Clearly the league's premier side for much of the competition, the Sunshine Coast had contributions from all over the park and now turn their attentions to the finals series in the hopes of claiming the Premiership/Championship double.

Elsewhere in Round Nineteen of the QSL it was business as usual. With the finals makeup looking all but settled, teams have turned to fine-tuning their play with an eye toward the finals series.

On Saturday night, the FNQ Bulls met the Capricorn Cougars at Borzi Park in Mareeba, hoping to capitalise on their solid form of late with a victory. Neither team could break the deadlock in the first half, and it took until the 51st minute for the Bulls



Shaun Blackman netted 4 times, this is his second, the Miner's keeper unable to keep it out of the goal.

PHOTO: ROBYN WOODALL



Champagne Super Novas! The Sunshine Coast Fire pop open the bubbly after a wrapping up the QSL Premiership with a resounding 5-1 win over Whitsunday Miners. PHOTO: ROBYN WOODALL



Bulls midfielder Joe Rusch contests a corner. PHOTO: JIM HATCHMAN

## LADDER

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Sunshine Coast	18	15	1	2	52	23	29	46
2 Brisbane Strikers	18	12	3	3	49	17	32	39
3 FNQ Bulls	18	9	2	7	40	36	4	29
4 NQ Razorbacks	18	8	4	6	30	21	9	28
5 Capricorn Cougars	17	5	2	10	22	34	-12	17
6 QAS	16	5	2	9	34	47	-13	17
7 Whitsunday Miners	17	3	5	9	23	37	-14	14
8 Bundaberg Spirit	18	2	3	13	23	58	-35	9

## RESULTS

**FNQ Bulls: 3 (Ruiz 67 ,pen, 89, Rusch 51, pen) v Capricorn Cougars 0**

**Sunshine Coast: 5 (Brazendale 19, Blackman 23,34,47,79) v Whitsunday Miners: 1 (Harvey 67)**

**Bundaberg Spirit: 0 v Brisbane Strikers: 3 (Thurtell 1,50, Angus 57)**

**Queensland Academy of Sport: 2 (Quinn 67, Cooper 86) v NQ Razorbacks 2 (Hay 35, Howe 43)**

## NEXT ROUND

### ROUND 20

**Brisbane Strikers v FNQ Bulls**

*Sat 7 Aug 7:00pm*

**Capricorn Cougars v QAS**

*Sat 7 Aug 7:00pm*

**Whitsunday Miners v Bundaberg Spirit**

*Sat 7 Aug 7:30pm*

**NQ Razorbacks v Sunshine Coast FC**

*Sat 7 Aug 7:30pm*

got on the scoreboard as the Strikers cruised to a 3-0 triumph and extended their winning streak to six games. Although the premiership is out of their reach, the Strikers are guaranteed of second spot on the ladder and are hitting top form as the finals come closer.

Finally, the fourth-placed North Queensland Razorback's were held 2-2 by the Queensland Academy of Sport at Meakin Park. After going to the half-time break two goals ahead through strikes from Brett Hay and Sean Howe, the Razorbacks let QAS back in when Alistair Quinn netted in the 67th minute to make the scores 2-1. A late strike from Mitch Cooper earned QAS a share of the spoils, and put a big dent in the Razorbacks ambitions of finishing the season in third place.

With two rounds of the HQSL season to go, the finals equation is looking clear-cut. With the Sunshine Coast Fire and Brisbane Strikers certain to finish first and second respectively, the race is on between the FNQ Bulls and North Queensland Razorbacks for third spot. The Razorbacks are three points adrift of the Bulls at present, although with a superior goal difference, and will need maximum points from the final two fixtures to have a chance at moving into third place.

to go ahead after Josiah Rusch shot truly from the penalty spot. David Ruiz also found the net with a penalty in the 67th minute, before putting the icing on the cake with a goal late in the game for a comfortable 3-0 scoreline.

On Sunday afternoon, the Brisbane Strikers eased past cellar-dwellers Bundaberg Spirit with a 3-0 victory.

A goal seconds into the game from Golden Boot leader Matt Thurtell set the tone for the match, and he added a second in the 50th minute to put the Strikers 2-0 up. Michael Angus also



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# SPAleta keeps Canberra FC in front

By Russ Gibbs

A goal in the 67th minute from ace midfielder Adam Spaleta has kept Canberra FC just ahead of Belconnen United on goal difference as the Gatorade Premier League pace setters both recorded victories in the latest round of action in the ACT top flight.

Spaleta's strike, half-way through the second half, decided a tight encounter with visitors Cooma Tigers as the interstate team, who were third heading into the match, gave as good as they got and were perhaps unfortunate not to come away from the clash at Deakin Stadium with at least a point having tested Canberra FC 'keeper Ben Klug on a number of occasions from distance.

The home team did have the better chances though and really should have taken the lead in the first half after a slick passing move involving Spaleta and Aidan Brunskill ended with the latter firing a low cross that eluded Francis Bangweni in the Cooma goal and fell to Dania Gapare four metres out in the centre of goal. However, the forward under no pressure whatsoever inexplicably fired over the gaping net. Gapare played his part in the winning goal though making a decoy run that created the space for Spaleta to cut inside and unleash a low drive into the bottom corner of the net to give new head coach Marko Vrkic the three points in his first game in charge.

Belconnen United had led the table for twenty-four hours after defeating the injury-struck Goulburn Strikers 3-1 at McKellar Park on Saturday evening. Gatorade Premier League leading scorer Danny Macor scored twice in the first eight minutes to give Belconnen a dream start and seemingly put them well on the way to three points and yet the Strikers, missing captain Andrew Aliffi who suffered what appeared to be a career ending knee injury in training and forced to see top scorer Brody Willis stretchered off with a serious quad injury, fought back with a goal from Josh Phelps. Dustin Wells' ninth goal of the year confirmed the points, ending any hopes of a comeback, five minutes from time.

Monaro Panthers moved up to third on the ladder after seeing off ANU FC 5-2 at Riverside Stadium in Queanbeyan. The Panthers took a 1-0 lead into the half-time break after Nathan Walker struck for the fifth time this season before running amok in the second half extending their advantage to 5-0 after goals from David Baillie, Vele Dukoski (2) and Goran Veljanovski. ANU FC finished strongly with an own goal and a late strike from Tom McLachlan. Reducing the deficit but the goals was of little consolation to the visitors.

Elsewhere, Tuggeranong United moved off the bottom of the table and potentially scuppered Canberra Olympics' finals hopes with a 3-2 win at Hawker Football Centre. After falling behind to an unfortunate own goal minutes before the interval Tuggeranong regrouped and fought hard to firstly level with a Mark Shields header before going in front from a long range Daniel Beaumont shot. Oliver Wiederkehr appeared to have stolen a point six minutes from the end of the match when he levelled the scores only for Shields to bag his second, and sixth of the season, in the 87th minute to send Tuggeranong home victorious.

## THE TRADIES WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE

**MUNOZ TREBLE SEALS BLUE DEVILS VICTORY**

A hat-trick from Matildas international



ACT Premier League action from Canberra FC's (red) 1-0 win over Cooma Tigers. PHOTO: PAUL LAU



striker Caitlin Munoz has helped Belconnen United cement their third place position on the league ladder after a truncated round of fixtures in The Tradies Women's Premier League.

With the scheduled matches involving Belwest Foxes, Canberra FC, Woden Valley and Brindabella Blues postponed due to the national schoolgirl's championship in Melbourne next weekend there were only two matches played in the women's top flight over the weekend. And Belconnen took advantage to open up a three point

cushion over reigning champions Weston Creek with their win as Weston could only draw 2-2 with ANU WFC.

Munoz was in inspirational form in front of goal for the Blue Devils, sharply taking advantage of a defensive mistake to open the scoring before adding two more after the break to kill off the challenge of a plucky Tuggeranong United team whose own finals chances are starting to look increasingly slim as the games run out.

ANU WFC meanwhile has continued their impressive recent run of form after

holding Weston Creek to a 2-2 draw. The university team was forced to come from 2-0 down early on after Kelly Donnelly scored her sixth of the season and Jacinta Holcroft nabbed her first of the campaign to give Robbie Mason's team a healthy lead. Undeterred by this though ANU WFC fought back and levelled through a brace from Bronwyn Tulloh, her third and fourth goals of 2010, to take a share of the spoils after a second half, played in increasingly atrocious conditions, ended with neither side able to break the deadlock.

## NEXT ROUND

### Round 15

Sat 7 Aug KO 6pm  
Belconnen Utd v Canberra City  
McKellar Park

Sun 8 Aug KO 3pm  
Woden Valley v Canberra FC  
Woden Park Enclosed

Sun 8 Aug KO 3pm  
Monaro Panthers v Cooma Tigers  
Riverside Stadium

Sun 8 Aug KO 3pm  
Goulburn Strikers v Tuggeranong Utd  
Cookbundoo

Sun 8 Aug KO 5pm  
Canberra Olympic v ANU FC  
Hawker Football Centre

## LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	GA	Pts
1 Canberra FC	14	9	5	0	42	10	+32 32
2 Belconnen United	14	10	2	3	39	20	+19 32
3 Monaro Panthers	14	7	2	5	24	25	-1 23
4 Cooma Tigers	14	6	4	4	28	17	+11 22
5 Canberra City	13	7	1	5	24	19	+5 22
6 Canberra Olympic	14	4	4	6	18	25	-7 16
7 Woden Valley	13	5	0	8	20	30	-10 15
8 Goulburn Strikers	14	3	3	8	24	26	-2 12
9 Tuggeranong United	14	3	3	8	19	43	-24 12
10 ANU FC	14	3	0	11	15	38	-23 9

## WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	GA	Pts
1 Belwest Foxes	15	14	0	1	70	10	+60 42
2 Woden Valley	14	11	1	2	53	14	+39 33
3 Belconnen United	16	7	4	5	45	16	+29 25
4 Weston Creek	16	6	4	6	30	27	+3 22
5 Canberra FC	15	6	3	6	25	36	-11 22
6 Tuggeranong United	16	4	3	9	31	41	-9 15
7 ANU WFC	15	3	4	8	16	33	-17 13
8 Brindabella Blues	15	0	0	15	9	103	-94 0

## ACT RESULTS

**Belconnen United** 3 (Danny Macor 5', 8', Dustin Wells 85')  
**Goulburn Strikers** 1 (Josh Phelps 80')

**Canberra FC** 1 (Adam Spaleta 67')  
**Cooma Tigers** 0

**Monaro Panthers** 5 (Nathan Walker 31', David Baillie 48', Vele Dukoski 64', 85', Goran Veljanovski 76')  
**ANU FC** 2 (own goal 83', Tom McLachlan 86')

**Canberra Olympic** 2 (own goal 44', Oliver Wiederkehr 84')  
**Tuggeranong United** 3 (Mark Shields 55', 87', Daniel Beaumont 75')

## THE TRADIES WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE

**Tuggeranong United** 0 **Belconnen United** 3 (Caitlin Munoz 25', 54', 88')

**Weston Creek** 2 (Kelly Donnelly 16', Jacinta Holcroft 18') **ANU WFC** 2 (Bronwyn Tulloh 23', 34')

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MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE NORTH-WEST: Ascot Vale 1 (A) Acone) Keon Park 2 (T) Tselios A Kolaitis), Heidelberg Stars 0 Yarra Jets 1 (J Pritchard), Light Utd 1 Oak Park 0, Tullamarine Jets 0 Northern Utd 0, Moreland Wolves 5 Altona North 0, Reserves: Ascot Vale 6 Keon Park 3, Heidelberg Stars 2 Yarra Jets 2, Light Utd 4 Oak Park 0, Tullamarine Jets 2 (KA Keane A Turkmen) Northern Utd 3, Moreland Wolves 4 Altona North 0
MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE SOUTH-EAST: Endeavour Hills 0 Old Mentonians 0, St Kevins 0 Ringwood City 1 (C Chonis), Harrisfield Hurricanes 2 (D Mayne) Parkmore 3 (Z Seci A Jovanovic C Cickedag), Middle Park FC 0 Dandenong Warriors 0, Reserves: Endeavour Hills 1 Old Mentonians 7, St Kevins 2 Ringwood City 2, Harrisfield Hurricanes 3 Parkmore 1, Middle Park FC 2 Dandenong Warriors 0
WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 1: Whitehorse Utd 0 Bundoora Utd 2 (K White K Smith), Bayswater Strikers 0 South Springvale 1, Ballarat & District Brighton, Uni. of Melbourne 1 (K Walters) South Yarra 2 (L Alzon), Reserves: Whitehorse Utd 0 Bundoora Utd 3, Bayswater Strikers South Springvale, Ballarat Lady Devils Brighton, Uni. of Melbourne 4 South Yarra 0,
WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 NORTH-WEST: North Geelong Warriors 0 Western Eagles 2, La Trobe University 2 (N Carter NE Garner) Cairnlea 3 (T Hussein 2 D Mutluel), Darebin Falcons 2 (N Morgan C Sandmann) Whittlesea Ranges FC 1 (C Arfi),
WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 SOUTH-EAST: Mornington 1 (J Vanstekelenburg) Albert Park 2 (H Saur 2), Noble Park 4 (M Veljovic M Atanassova R Kok) Monash University, Berwick City 2 North Caulfield 1, Southern Suburbs 3 (T Moutafis 2) Ashburton 0, Sandringham 0 Mooroolbark 0

MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Eltham Redbacks 2 Keilor Park 3, Old Carey 2 (K Newton 2) Brunswick Zebras 5 (N Italiano 2 L Johnston Y Mojica-Perez 2), Yarra Jets 3 Sunshine George Cross 0, Diamond Valley Utd 5 (A McMillan 2 S Gooney K Battista) Kyneton District 1 (CL Holt)
WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST: Ashburton 3 (M Armitage R Drew 2) Croydon City Arrows 1 (J McDonald), Endeavour Utd 0 Seaford Utd 1 (R McGowan), Langwarrin 0 Box Hill Inter 3, Knox City 0 South Melbourne 2 (S Kelly), East Bentleigh 1 (K Evans) Beaumaris 5 (M Lee Gow 5)
WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE NORTH-WEST: Fitzroy City 3 Brunswick Zebras 4 (EK Johns R King 3), Northern Roosters 0 Brunswick City 13 (S Rawlings 7 M Ismay B Carey S McNally 4), Plenty Valley Lions 1 Mitchell Rangers 5 (C Smith V McNaughton 2 C Edmonds), Yarra Jets 1 Melbourne Knights 6
WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE SOUTH-EAST: Berwick City 3 Kingston City 1, Croydon City Arrows 3 Sandringham 0, Dandenong City Skye Utd, Endeavour Hills 9 (S Tomic R Krieger 2 S Kouroukidis 3 1 Lagrasse 3) Monash University 2,
WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE CENTRAL: Elwood City 0 Swinburne University WSC 0, Uni. of Melbourne 1 Sydenham Park 1, Whittlesea Zebras 1 Sandringham 1

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 1: Altona Lions 6 Kyneton District 0, Doveton 0 South Yarra 3, Monash University 1 (D Riviere) Marcellin Old Collegians 1, Southern Suburbs 1 La Trobe University 2, Juventus Old Boys 3 Cleland Utd 2
MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 2 NORTH-WEST: Glenroy 2 Keilor Park 3, Moreland City 4 Melbourne University 0, Collingwood City 0 Mitchell Rangers 3,
MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 2 SOUTH-EAST: Bayside Argonauts 3 South Yarra 3, Berwick City 0, Boronara Eagles 4, Old Scotch 6 Nunawading City FC 1,
MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Plenty Valley Lions 1 Kyneton District 2 (K Turley SC Dingle), Uni. of Melbourne 0 Hoppers Crossing 1, Northcote City 7 Melbourne Lions 0, Lalor 5 Melton 1,
MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST: Riversdale 3 Old Trinity Grammarians 0,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 4 NORTH-WEST: Brimbank Stallions 3 Kyneton District 0, Williamstown 3 Cairnlea 5
WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 1: Whitehorse Utd 0 Bundoora Utd 2 (K White K Smith), Bayswater Strikers 0 South Springvale 1, Ballarat & District Brighton, Uni. of Melbourne 1 (K Walters) South Yarra 2 (L Alzon), Reserves: Whitehorse Utd 0 Bundoora Utd 3, Bayswater Strikers South Springvale, Ballarat Lady Devils Brighton, Uni. of Melbourne 4 South Yarra 0,
WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 NORTH-WEST: North Geelong Warriors 0 Western Eagles 2, La Trobe University 2 (N Carter NE Garner) Cairnlea 3 (T Hussein 2 D Mutluel), Darebin Falcons 2 (N Morgan C Sandmann) Whittlesea Ranges FC 1 (C Arfi),
WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 SOUTH-EAST: Mornington 1 (J Vanstekelenburg) Albert Park 2 (H Saur 2), Noble Park 4 (M Veljovic M Atanassova R Kok) Monash University, Berwick City 2 North Caulfield 1, Southern Suburbs 3 (T Moutafis 2) Ashburton 0, Sandringham 0 Mooroolbark 0
WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Eltham Redbacks 2 Keilor Park 3, Old Carey 2 (K Newton 2) Brunswick Zebras 5 (N Italiano 2 L Johnston Y Mojica-Perez 2), Yarra Jets 3 Sunshine George Cross 0, Diamond Valley Utd 5 (A McMillan 2 S Gooney K Battista) Kyneton District 1 (CL Holt)

MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST: Ashburton 3 (M Armitage R Drew 2) Croydon City Arrows 1 (J McDonald), Endeavour Utd 0 Seaford Utd 1 (R McGowan), Langwarrin 0 Box Hill Inter 3, Knox City 0 South Melbourne 2 (S Kelly), East Bentleigh 1 (K Evans) Beaumaris 5 (M Lee Gow 5)
WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE NORTH-WEST: Fitzroy City 3 Brunswick Zebras 4 (EK Johns R King 3), Northern Roosters 0 Brunswick City 13 (S Rawlings 7 M Ismay B Carey S McNally 4), Plenty Valley Lions 1 Mitchell Rangers 5 (C Smith V McNaughton 2 C Edmonds), Yarra Jets 1 Melbourne Knights 6
WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE SOUTH-EAST: Berwick City 3 Kingston City 1, Croydon City Arrows 3 Sandringham 0, Dandenong City Skye Utd, Endeavour Hills 9 (S Tomic R Krieger 2 S Kouroukidis 3 1 Lagrasse 3) Monash University 2,
WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE CENTRAL: Elwood City 0 Swinburne University WSC 0, Uni. of Melbourne 1 Sydenham Park 1, Whittlesea Zebras 1 Sandringham 1
MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 1: Altona Lions 6 Kyneton District 0, Doveton 0 South Yarra 3, Monash University 1 (D Riviere) Marcellin Old Collegians 1, Southern Suburbs 1 La Trobe University 2, Juventus Old Boys 3 Cleland Utd 2

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 2 NORTH-WEST: Glenroy 2 Keilor Park 3, Moreland City 4 Melbourne University 0, Collingwood City 0 Mitchell Rangers 3,
MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 2 SOUTH-EAST: Bayside Argonauts 3 South Yarra 3, Berwick City 0, Boronara Eagles 4, Old Scotch 6 Nunawading City FC 1,
MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Plenty Valley Lions 1 Kyneton District 2 (K Turley SC Dingle), Uni. of Melbourne 0 Hoppers Crossing 1, Northcote City 7 Melbourne Lions 0, Lalor 5 Melton 1,
MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST: Riversdale 3 Old Trinity Grammarians 0,
MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 4 NORTH-WEST: Brimbank Stallions 3 Kyneton District 0, Williamstown 3 Cairnlea 5

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 4 SOUTH-EAST: Beaumaris 1 Elwood City, Monash University 1 (C See) Marcellin Eagles 2, Old Scotch 1 Old Melburnians 0
MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 5 NORTH-WEST: Melbourne University 1 Moreland Wolves 2, Altona City 6 Heidelberg Utd 0, Keon Park 2 Kyneton District 4, Uni. of Melbourne 4 Mitchell Rangers 1
MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 5 SOUTH-EAST: Middle Park FC 1 Frankston Pines 2, East Bentleigh 4 Eltham Redback FC 0, Bunyip & District Soccer Club 3 Keysborough 2
MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE SOUTH-EAST: Endeavour Hills 0 Old Mentonians 0, St Kevins 0 Ringwood City 1 (C Chonis), Harrisfield Hurricanes 2 (D Mayne) Parkmore 3 (Z Seci A Jovanovic C Cickedag), Middle Park FC 0 Dandenong Warriors 0, Reserves: Endeavour Hills 1 Old Mentonians 7, St Kevins 2 Ringwood City 2, Harrisfield Hurricanes 3 Parkmore 1, Middle Park FC 2 Dandenong Warriors 0
WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 1: Whitehorse Utd 0 Bundoora Utd 2 (K White K Smith), Bayswater Strikers 0 South Springvale 1, Ballarat & District Brighton, Uni. of Melbourne 1 (K Walters) South Yarra 2 (L Alzon), Reserves: Whitehorse Utd 0 Bundoora Utd 3, Bayswater Strikers South Springvale, Ballarat Lady Devils Brighton, Uni. of Melbourne 4 South Yarra 0,

MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE DIV 2 NORTH-WEST: North Geelong Warriors 0 Western Eagles 2, La Trobe University 2 (N Carter NE Garner) Cairnlea 3 (T Hussein 2 D Mutluel), Darebin Falcons 2 (N Morgan C Sandmann) Whittlesea Ranges FC 1 (C Arfi),
MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE DIV 2 SOUTH-EAST: Mornington 1 (J Vanstekelenburg) Albert Park 2 (H Saur 2), Noble Park 4 (M Veljovic M Atanassova R Kok) Monash University, Berwick City 2 North Caulfield 1, Southern Suburbs 3 (T Moutafis 2) Ashburton 0, Sandringham 0 Mooroolbark 0
MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Eltham Redbacks 2 Keilor Park 3, Old Carey 2 (K Newton 2) Brunswick Zebras 5 (N Italiano 2 L Johnston Y Mojica-Perez 2), Yarra Jets 3 Sunshine George Cross 0, Diamond Valley Utd 5 (A McMillan 2 S Gooney K Battista) Kyneton District 1 (CL Holt)
MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST: Ashburton 3 (M Armitage R Drew 2) Croydon City Arrows 1 (J McDonald), Endeavour Utd 0 Seaford Utd 1 (R McGowan), Langwarrin 0 Box Hill Inter 3, Knox City 0 South Melbourne 2 (S Kelly), East Bentleigh 1 (K Evans) Beaumaris 5 (M Lee Gow 5)
WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE NORTH-WEST: Fitzroy City 3 Brunswick Zebras 4 (EK Johns R King 3), Northern Roosters 0 Brunswick City 13 (S Rawlings 7 M Ismay B Carey S McNally 4), Plenty Valley Lions 1 Mitchell Rangers 5 (C Smith V McNaughton 2 C Edmonds), Yarra Jets 1 Melbourne Knights 6

MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE SOUTH-EAST: Berwick City 3 Kingston City 1, Croydon City Arrows 3 Sandringham 0, Dandenong City Skye Utd, Endeavour Hills 9 (S Tomic R Krieger 2 S Kouroukidis 3 1 Lagrasse 3) Monash University 2,
MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE CENTRAL: Elwood City 0 Swinburne University WSC 0, Uni. of Melbourne 1 Sydenham Park 1, Whittlesea Zebras 1 Sandringham 1
MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 1: Altona Lions 6 Kyneton District 0, Doveton 0 South Yarra 3, Monash University 1 (D Riviere) Marcellin Old Collegians 1, Southern Suburbs 1 La Trobe University 2, Juventus Old Boys 3 Cleland Utd 2
MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 2 NORTH-WEST: Glenroy 2 Keilor Park 3, Moreland City 4 Melbourne University 0, Collingwood City 0 Mitchell Rangers 3,
MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 2 SOUTH-EAST: Bayside Argonauts 3 South Yarra 3, Berwick City 0, Boronara Eagles 4, Old Scotch 6 Nunawading City FC 1,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Plenty Valley Lions 1 Kyneton District 2 (K Turley SC Dingle), Uni. of Melbourne 0 Hoppers Crossing 1, Northcote City 7 Melbourne Lions 0, Lalor 5 Melton 1,
MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST: Riversdale 3 Old Trinity Grammarians 0,
MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 4 NORTH-WEST: Brimbank Stallions 3 Kyneton District 0, Williamstown 3 Cairnlea 5
MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 4 SOUTH-EAST: Beaumaris 1 Elwood City, Monash University 1 (C See) Marcellin Eagles 2, Old Scotch 1 Old Melburnians 0

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 5 NORTH-WEST: Melbourne University 1 Moreland Wolves 2, Altona City 6 Heidelberg Utd 0, Keon Park 2 Kyneton District 4, Uni. of Melbourne 4 Mitchell Rangers 1
MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 5 SOUTH-EAST: Middle Park FC 1 Frankston Pines 2, East Bentleigh 4 Eltham Redback FC 0, Bunyip & District Soccer Club 3 Keysborough 2
MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE DIV 1: Endeavour Hills 0 Old Mentonians 0, St Kevins 0 Ringwood City 1 (C Chonis), Harrisfield Hurricanes 2 (D Mayne) Parkmore 3 (Z Seci A Jovanovic C Cickedag), Middle Park FC 0 Dandenong Warriors 0, Reserves: Endeavour Hills 1 Old Mentonians 7, St Kevins 2 Ringwood City 2, Harrisfield Hurricanes 3 Parkmore 1, Middle Park FC 2 Dandenong Warriors 0
WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 1: Whitehorse Utd 0 Bundoora Utd 2 (K White K Smith), Bayswater Strikers 0 South Springvale 1, Ballarat & District Brighton, Uni. of Melbourne 1 (K Walters) South Yarra 2 (L Alzon), Reserves: Whitehorse Utd 0 Bundoora Utd 3, Bayswater Strikers South Springvale, Ballarat Lady Devils Brighton, Uni. of Melbourne 4 South Yarra 0,
WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 NORTH-WEST: North Geelong Warriors 0 Western Eagles 2, La Trobe University 2 (N Carter NE Garner) Cairnlea 3 (T Hussein 2 D Mutluel), Darebin Falcons 2 (N Morgan C Sandmann) Whittlesea Ranges FC 1 (C Arfi),

MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE DIV 2 SOUTH-EAST: Mornington 1 (J Vanstekelenburg) Albert Park 2 (H Saur 2), Noble Park 4 (M Veljovic M Atanassova R Kok) Monash University, Berwick City 2 North Caulfield 1, Southern Suburbs 3 (T Moutafis 2) Ashburton 0, Sandringham
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Boys South 12 A: Bye South Eastern Piranhas, Berwick City 3 Doveton 1, Dandenong City Peninsula, Dandenong Thunder Mornington	Girls Central - North East - East 15-16 C: Brandon Park 1 Glen Waverley 2, Waverley Victory 6 Oakleigh Cannons 0, Watsonia Heights 5 Greenvale Utd 1, DOC Utd FC Bulleen Lions	wick City 5 Essendon Royals 2, Moreland City Brunswick Zebras 2, Moreland Utd 5 North City Lions 0, Brunswick Zebras 1 2 Melbourne Phoenix 2	Boys 18 Purple	FC Clifton Hill	11 6 0 5 17 26 18
Boys South 12 B: Baxter Peninsula, Berwick City 4 Endeavour Utd 0, Doveton 7 Mornington 0, Langwarrin 2 Hampton Park Utd 1	Girls Central - North East - East 15-16 D: Croydon City Arrows 1 South Yarra 2, Yarra Jets 5 Eastern Lions 2, Eltham Redback FC Boronia	North West SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Red (Sun): Essendon Royals 2 0 Essendon Royals 1 5, Gisborne 1 Keilor Wolves 1, Moreland City 6 Brunswick Zebras 2, Pascoe Vale 6 Light Utd 1, Upfield 2 Fawkner 4	FC Bulleen Lions	Heidelberg Stars	12 5 0 7 24 33 15
Boys South 12 C: Berwick City 3 Keysborough 0, Berwick City 3 Mornington 0, Carrum Utd 2 Westerport 0, Casey Panthers 6 James Cook FC 0, Heatherton Utd Peninsula	Girls South East - South 13-14 A: Bye North Caulfield, Berwick City 1 Hampton 1, Peninsula 0 Carrum Utd 1, Brighton 0 Sandringham 4	North West-North-Central SSF Girls 11 (Sun): Banyule City 1 Greenvale Utd, Banyule City 2 Fawkner, South Melbourne 1 South Yarra, Yarra Jets 0 FC Clifton Hill 3, Bye Essendon Royals, South Melbourne 2 0 Kensington JGSC 2	South Melbourne	Whittlesea Ranges FC	13 3 3 7 22 21 12
Boys South 13 A: Berwick City 0 Langwarrin 4, Dandenong City 0 South Eastern Piranhas 4, Doveton 0 Mornington 1, Springvale White Eagles 2 Hampton Park Utd 0	Girls South East - South 13-14 B: Sandringham 1 9 Brighton 2 0, Hampton 0 Southern Stars 6, Mornington 1 Sandringham 2 2, Brighton 1 2 Carrum Utd 1, Casey Panthers 0 North Caulfield 1	North West SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Red (Sun): Essendon Royals 2 0 Essendon Royals 1 5, Gisborne 1 Keilor Wolves 1, Moreland City 6 Brunswick Zebras 2, Pascoe Vale 6 Light Utd 1, Upfield 2 Fawkner 4	Richmond	Yarra Jets	11 1 0 10 12 58 3
Boys South 13 B: Casey Comets 2 Langwarrin 1, Baxter 1 White Star Dandenong 6, Berwick City 1 Mornington 1, Carrum Utd 0 Endeavour Utd 2, Southern Stars 5 Peninsula 0	Girls South East - South 13-14 C: Glen Eira White Star Dandenong, Mornington 0 Endeavour Utd 1, East Bentleigh 5 Yarra Jets 0, Berwick City 4 Sandringham 0, Seaford Utd 1 Oakleigh Cannons 1, Langwarrin 2 Rosebud 1	North West SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Red (Sun): Essendon Royals 2 0 Essendon Royals 1 5, Gisborne 1 Keilor Wolves 1, Moreland City 6 Brunswick Zebras 2, Pascoe Vale 6 Light Utd 1, Upfield 2 Fawkner 4	Green Gully Cavaliers	Banyule City	12 1 0 11 10 63 3
Boys South 14 A: Casey Comets 2 Peninsula 1, Berwick City 2 South Springvale 2, Dandenong Thunder Mornington, South Eastern Piranhas 7 Hampton Park Utd 0, Bye Doveton	Girls South East - South 13-14 D: Sandringham 1 9 Brighton 2 0, Hampton 0 Southern Stars 6, Mornington 1 Sandringham 2 2, Brighton 1 2 Carrum Utd 1, Casey Panthers 0 North Caulfield 1	North West SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Red (Sun): Essendon Royals 2 0 Essendon Royals 1 5, Gisborne 1 Keilor Wolves 1, Moreland City 6 Brunswick Zebras 2, Pascoe Vale 6 Light Utd 1, Upfield 2 Fawkner 4	Heidelberg Utd	Boys Central	North 15
Boys South 14 B: Berwick City 1 Carrum Utd 1, Doveton 2 Keysborough 1, Langwarrin 2 Peninsula 2, Lyndale Utd 3 Seaford Utd 1	Girls South East - South 13-14 E: Sandringham 1 9 Brighton 2 0, Hampton 0 Southern Stars 6, Mornington 1 Sandringham 2 2, Brighton 1 2 Carrum Utd 1, Casey Panthers 0 North Caulfield 1	North West SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Red (Sun): Essendon Royals 2 0 Essendon Royals 1 5, Gisborne 1 Keilor Wolves 1, Moreland City 6 Brunswick Zebras 2, Pascoe Vale 6 Light Utd 1, Upfield 2 Fawkner 4	Dandenong Thunder	Boys Central	P W D L F A PT
Boys South 14 C: Casey Comets 4 Dandenong City 1, Baxter 3 Rosebud 0, Casey Panthers 1 Dandenong Warriors 3, Westerport 0 Hampton Park Utd 6	Girls South East - South 13-14 F: Sandringham 1 9 Brighton 2 0, Hampton 0 Southern Stars 6, Mornington 1 Sandringham 2 2, Brighton 1 2 Carrum Utd 1, Casey Panthers 0 North Caulfield 1	North West SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Red (Sun): Essendon Royals 2 0 Essendon Royals 1 5, Gisborne 1 Keilor Wolves 1, Moreland City 6 Brunswick Zebras 2, Pascoe Vale 6 Light Utd 1, Upfield 2 Fawkner 4	Richmond	North	11 6 0 5 17 26 18
Boys South 15 A: Bye Doveton, Berwick City 2 Keysborough 1, Dandenong City Endeavour Utd, Dandenong Thunder 3 Springvale White Eagles 0, South Eastern Piranhas 2 Peninsula 1	Girls South East - South 13-14 G: Sandringham 1 9 Brighton 2 0, Hampton 0 Southern Stars 6, Mornington 1 Sandringham 2 2, Brighton 1 2 Carrum Utd 1, Casey Panthers 0 North Caulfield 1	North West SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Red (Sun): Essendon Royals 2 0 Essendon Royals 1 5, Gisborne 1 Keilor Wolves 1, Moreland City 6 Brunswick Zebras 2, Pascoe Vale 6 Light Utd 1, Upfield 2 Fawkner 4	Heidelberg Utd	North	12 5 0 7 24 33 15
Boys South 15 B: Frankston Pines Casey Comets, Baxter 0 Langwarrin 4, Berwick City 2 Endeavour Utd 2, Carrum Utd 2 Mornington 1, Peninsula 1 James Cook FC 1	Girls South East - South 13-14 H: Sandringham 1 9 Brighton 2 0, Hampton 0 Southern Stars 6, Mornington 1 Sandringham 2 2, Brighton 1 2 Carrum Utd 1, Casey Panthers 0 North Caulfield 1	North West SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Red (Sun): Essendon Royals 2 0 Essendon Royals 1 5, Gisborne 1 Keilor Wolves 1, Moreland City 6 Brunswick Zebras 2, Pascoe Vale 6 Light Utd 1, Upfield 2 Fawkner 4	Alphington	North	13 3 3 7 22 21 12
Boys South 16 A: Bye Peninsula, Casey Comets 0 White Star Dandenong 5, Berwick City 10 Keysborough 0, Hampton Park Utd 4 Langwarrin 0, South Eastern Piranhas 3 Mornington 0	Girls South East - South 13-14 I: Sandringham 1 9 Brighton 2 0, Hampton 0 Southern Stars 6, Mornington 1 Sandringham 2 2, Brighton 1 2 Carrum Utd 1, Casey Panthers 0 North Caulfield 1	North West SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Red (Sun): Essendon Royals 2 0 Essendon Royals 1 5, Gisborne 1 Keilor Wolves 1, Moreland City 6 Brunswick Zebras 2, Pascoe Vale 6 Light Utd 1, Upfield 2 Fawkner 4	Alphington	North	14 13 0 1 70 13 39
Boys West 12 A: Altona City 3 Melbourne Knights 0, Ballarat Academy of Soccer Brimbank Stallions, Hoppers Crossing 1 Green Gully Cavaliers 3, North Geelong Warriors 2 Sydenham Park 0, St Albans Saints 1 Keilor Park 1	Girls West - North West - North 13-14 A: Brunswick Zebras 1 Watsonia Heights 0, Green Gully Cavaliers 0 Keilor Park 7, Banyule City Sunbury Utd, Bundoora Utd Essendon Royals, St Albans Saints Pascoe Vale	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Glen Eira 1 Beaumaris 1 3, Sandringham City 1 Hampton 2 3, Hampton 1 East Bentleigh 2, Bayside Argonauts Brighton 1, Brighton 22 Brightont 31, Dandenong Warriors Beaumaris 2	FC Bulleen Lions	Whittlesea Ranges FC	13 3 3 7 22 21 12
Boys West 12 B: Cairnlea 2 Laverton Park 1, Altona City 2 Keilor Park 1, Bell Park Bye, Sunshine Heights Green Gully Cavaliers, Spring Hills 2 Keilor Park 2 0	Girls West - North West - North 13-14 B: Brunswick Zebras 1 Watsonia Heights 0, Green Gully Cavaliers 0 Keilor Park 7, Banyule City Sunbury Utd, Bundoora Utd Essendon Royals, St Albans Saints Pascoe Vale	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Glen Eira 1 Beaumaris 1 3, Sandringham City 1 Hampton 2 3, Hampton 1 East Bentleigh 2, Bayside Argonauts Brighton 1, Brighton 22 Brightont 31, Dandenong Warriors Beaumaris 2	South Melbourne	Yarra Jets	11 1 0 10 12 58 3
Boys West 13 A: Altona City 0 Melbourne Knights 1, Brimbank Stallions 2 Brimbank City 1, Hoppers Crossing 1 Green Gully Cavaliers 3, Keilor Park 2 Sunshine George Cross 0, St Albans Saints Werribee City	Girls West - North West - North 13-14 C: Cairnlea 2 Willmington 1, Diamond Valley Utd 3 Keilor Park 3, Yarra Jets 4 Sydenham Park 1, Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Glen Eira 1 Beaumaris 1 3, Sandringham City 1 Hampton 2 3, Hampton 1 East Bentleigh 2, Bayside Argonauts Brighton 1, Brighton 22 Brightont 31, Dandenong Warriors Beaumaris 2	FC Bulleen Lions	Yarra Jets	12 1 0 11 9 86 3
Boys West 13 B: Brimbank Stallions 12 GRFA 0, Cairnlea 1 Laverton Park 0, Altona East Phoenix Bye, Ballarat Academy of Soccer Green Gully Cavaliers, Keilor Park 0 Williamstown 1	Girls West - North West - North 13-14 D: Cairnlea 2 Willmington 1, Diamond Valley Utd 3 Keilor Park 3, Yarra Jets 4 Sydenham Park 1, Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Glen Eira 1 Beaumaris 1 3, Sandringham City 1 Hampton 2 3, Hampton 1 East Bentleigh 2, Bayside Argonauts Brighton 1, Brighton 22 Brightont 31, Dandenong Warriors Beaumaris 2	South Melbourne	Yarra Jets	13 1 0 12 10 77 3
Boys West 13 C: Hoppers Crossing 0 North Geelong Warriors 4, Sunshine George Cross Bye, Westgate 14 Hoppers Crossing 0, Williamstown 0 Oak Park SC 2, Spring Hills 1 North Geelong Warriors 5	Girls West - North West - North 13-14 E: Cairnlea 2 Willmington 1, Diamond Valley Utd 3 Keilor Park 3, Yarra Jets 4 Sydenham Park 1, Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Glen Eira 1 Beaumaris 1 3, Sandringham City 1 Hampton 2 3, Hampton 1 East Bentleigh 2, Bayside Argonauts Brighton 1, Brighton 22 Brightont 31, Dandenong Warriors Beaumaris 2	FC Bulleen Lions	Yarra Jets	14 1 0 12 10 77 3
Boys West 14 A: Bye Melton, Satellite City Utd Altona City, Western Eagles Point Cook FC, Williamstown 0 Werribee City 8	Girls West - North West - North 13-14 F: Cairnlea 2 Willmington 1, Diamond Valley Utd 3 Keilor Park 3, Yarra Jets 4 Sydenham Park 1, Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Glen Eira 1 Beaumaris 1 3, Sandringham City 1 Hampton 2 3, Hampton 1 East Bentleigh 2, Bayside Argonauts Brighton 1, Brighton 22 Brightont 31, Dandenong Warriors Beaumaris 2	FC Bulleen Lions	Yarra Jets	15 1 0 12 10 77 3
Boys West 15 A: Green Gully Cavaliers 0 Keilor Park 1, Sunshine George Cross Brimbank City, Ballarat Academy of Soccer Altona City, GRFA Geelong	Girls West - North West - North 13-14 G: Cairnlea 2 Willmington 1, Diamond Valley Utd 3 Keilor Park 3, Yarra Jets 4 Sydenham Park 1, Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Glen Eira 1 Beaumaris 1 3, Sandringham City 1 Hampton 2 3, Hampton 1 East Bentleigh 2, Bayside Argonauts Brighton 1, Brighton 22 Brightont 31, Dandenong Warriors Beaumaris 2	FC Bulleen Lions	Yarra Jets	16 1 0 12 10 77 3
Boys West 15 B: Altona City 1 Williamstown 1, Hoppers Crossing 0 Green Gully Cavaliers 10, Keilor Park 8 North Lions 0, Sydenham Park 1 Werribee City 2 0, Brimbank Stallions 4 Sunshine George Cross 1	Girls West - North West - North 13-14 H: Cairnlea 2 Willmington 1, Diamond Valley Utd 3 Keilor Park 3, Yarra Jets 4 Sydenham Park 1, Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Glen Eira 1 Beaumaris 1 3, Sandringham City 1 Hampton 2 3, Hampton 1 East Bentleigh 2, Bayside Argonauts Brighton 1, Brighton 22 Brightont 31, Dandenong Warriors Beaumaris 2	FC Bulleen Lions	Yarra Jets	17 1 0 12 10 77 3
Boys West 16 A: North Geelong Warriors 0 Sydenham Park 1, Sunshine George Cross Melbourne Knights 1, Altona East Phoenix 0 Werribee City 2, Keilor Park Westgate, Sunshine Heights Green Gully Cavaliers, St Albans Saints Keilor Wolves	Girls West - North West - North 13-14 I: Cairnlea 2 Willmington 1, Diamond Valley Utd 3 Keilor Park 3, Yarra Jets 4 Sydenham Park 1, Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Glen Eira 1 Beaumaris 1 3, Sandringham City 1 Hampton 2 3, Hampton 1 East Bentleigh 2, Bayside Argonauts Brighton 1, Brighton 22 Brightont 31, Dandenong Warriors Beaumaris 2	FC Bulleen Lions	Yarra Jets	18 1 0 12 10 77 3
Boys West 16 C: Bye Melton, Satellite City Utd Altona City, Western Eagles Point Cook FC, Williamstown 0 Werribee City 8	Girls West - North West - North 13-14 J: Cairnlea 2 Willmington 1, Diamond Valley Utd 3 Keilor Park 3, Yarra Jets 4 Sydenham Park 1, Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Glen Eira 1 Beaumaris 1 3, Sandringham City 1 Hampton 2 3, Hampton 1 East Bentleigh 2, Bayside Argonauts Brighton 1, Brighton 22 Brightont 31, Dandenong Warriors Beaumaris 2	FC Bulleen Lions	Yarra Jets	19 1 0 12 10 77 3
Boys West 17 A: Bye Melton, Satellite City Utd Altona City, Western Eagles Point Cook FC, Williamstown 0 Werribee City 8	Girls West - North West - North 13-14 K: Cairnlea 2 Willmington 1, Diamond Valley Utd 3 Keilor Park 3, Yarra Jets 4 Sydenham Park 1, Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Glen Eira 1 Beaumaris 1 3, Sandringham City 1 Hampton 2 3, Hampton 1 East Bentleigh 2, Bayside Argonauts Brighton 1, Brighton 22 Brightont 31, Dandenong Warriors Beaumaris 2	FC Bulleen Lions	Yarra Jets	20 1 0 12 10 77 3
Boys West 17 B: Bye Melton, Satellite City Utd Altona City, Western Eagles Point Cook FC, Williamstown 0 Werribee City 8	Girls West - North West - North 13-14 L: Cairnlea 2 Willmington 1, Diamond Valley Utd 3 Keilor Park 3, Yarra Jets 4 Sydenham Park 1, Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Glen Eira 1 Beaumaris 1 3, Sandringham City 1 Hampton 2 3, Hampton 1 East Bentleigh 2, Bayside Argonauts Brighton 1, Brighton 22 Brightont 31, Dandenong Warriors Beaumaris 2	FC Bulleen Lions	Yarra Jets	21 1 0 12 10 77 3
Boys West 17 C: Bye Melton, Satellite City Utd Altona City, Western Eagles Point Cook FC, Williamstown 0 Werribee City 8	Girls West - North West - North 13-14 M: Cairnlea 2 Willmington 1, Diamond Valley Utd 3 Keilor Park 3, Yarra Jets 4 Sydenham Park 1, Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Glen Eira 1 Beaumaris 1 3, Sandringham City 1 Hampton 2 3, Hampton 1 East Bentleigh 2, Bayside Argonauts Brighton 1, Brighton 22 Brightont 31, Dandenong Warriors Beaumaris 2	FC Bulleen Lions	Yarra Jets	22 1 0 12 10 77 3
Boys West 18 A: Bye Melton, Satellite City Utd Altona City, Western Eagles Point Cook FC, Williamstown 0 Werribee City 8	Girls West - North West - North 13-14 N: Cairnlea 2 Willmington 1, Diamond Valley Utd 3 Keilor Park 3, Yarra Jets 4 Sydenham Park 1, Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Glen Eira 1 Beaumaris 1 3, Sandringham City 1 Hampton 2 3, Hampton 1 East Bentleigh 2, Bayside Argonauts Brighton 1, Brighton 22 Brightont 31, Dandenong Warriors Beaumaris 2	FC Bulleen Lions	Yarra Jets	23 1 0 12 10 77 3
Boys West 18 B: Bye Melton, Satellite City Utd Altona City, Western Eagles Point Cook FC, Williamstown 0 Werribee City 8	Girls West - North West - North 13-14 O: Cairnlea 2 Willmington 1, Diamond Valley Utd 3 Keilor Park 3, Yarra Jets 4 Sydenham Park 1, Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Glen Eira 1 Beaumaris 1 3, Sandringham City 1 Hampton 2 3, Hampton 1 East Bentleigh 2, Bayside Argonauts Brighton 1, Brighton 22 Brightont 31, Dandenong Warriors Beaumaris 2	FC Bulleen Lions	Yarra Jets	24 1 0 12 10 77 3
Boys West 18 C: Bye Melton, Satellite City Utd Altona City, Western Eagles Point Cook FC, Williamstown 0 Werribee City 8	Girls West - North West - North 13-14 P: Cairnlea 2 Willmington 1, Diamond Valley Utd 3 Keilor Park 3, Yarra Jets 4 Sydenham Park 1, Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Glen Eira 1 Beaumaris 1 3, Sandringham City 1 Hampton 2 3, Hampton 1 East Bentleigh 2, Bayside Argonauts Brighton 1, Brighton 22 Brightont 31, Dandenong Warriors Beaumaris 2	FC Bulleen Lions	Yarra Jets	25 1 0 12 10 77 3
Boys West 19 A: Bye Melton, Satellite City Utd Altona City, Western Eagles Point Cook FC, Williamstown 0 Werribee City 8	Girls West - North West - North 13-14 Q: Cairnlea 2 Willmington 1, Diamond Valley Utd 3 Keilor Park 3, Yarra Jets 4 Sydenham Park 1, Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Glen Eira 1 Beaumaris 1 3, Sandringham City 1 Hampton 2 3, Hampton 1 East Bentleigh 2, Bayside Argonauts Brighton 1, Brighton 22 Brightont 31, Dandenong Warriors Beaumaris 2	FC Bulleen Lions	Yarra Jets	26 1 0 12 10 77 3
Boys West 19 B: Bye Melton, Satellite City Utd Altona City, Western Eagles Point Cook FC, Williamstown 0 Werribee City 8	Girls West - North West - North 13-14 R: Cairnlea 2 Willmington 1, Diamond Valley Utd 3 Keilor Park 3, Yarra Jets 4 Sydenham Park 1, Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Glen Eira 1 Beaumaris 1 3, Sandringham City 1 Hampton 2 3, Hampton 1 East Bentleigh 2, Bayside Argonauts Brighton 1, Brighton 22 Brightont 31, Dandenong Warriors Beaumaris 2	FC Bulleen Lions	Yarra Jets	27 1 0 12 10 77 3
Boys West 19 C: Bye Melton, Satellite City Utd Altona City, Western Eagles Point Cook FC, Williamstown 0 Werribee City 8	Girls West - North West - North 13-14 S: Cairnlea 2 Willmington 1, Diamond Valley Utd 3 Keilor Park 3, Yarra Jets 4 Sydenham Park 1, Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Glen Eira 1 Beaumaris 1 3, Sandringham City 1 Hampton 2 3, Hampton 1 East Bentleigh 2, Bayside Argonauts Brighton 1, Brighton 22 Brightont 31, Dandenong Warriors Beaumaris 2	FC Bulleen Lions	Yarra Jets	28 1 0 12 10 77 3
Boys West 20 A: Bye Melton, Satellite City Utd Altona City, Western Eagles Point Cook FC, Williamstown 0 Werribee City 8	Girls West - North West - North 13-14 T: Cairnlea 2 Willmington 1, Diamond Valley Utd 3 Keilor Park 3, Yarra Jets 4 Sydenham Park 1, Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Glen Eira 1 Beaumaris 1 3, Sandringham City 1 Hampton 2 3, Hampton 1 East Bentleigh 2, Bayside Argonauts Brighton 1, Brighton 22 Brightont 31, Dandenong Warriors Beaumaris 2	FC Bulleen Lions	Yarra Jets	29 1 0 12 10 77 3
Boys West 20 B: Bye Melton, Satellite City Utd Altona City, Western Eagles Point Cook FC, Williamstown 0 Werribee City 8	Girls West - North West - North 13-14 U: Cairnlea 2 Willmington 1, Diamond Valley Utd 3 Keilor Park 3, Yarra Jets 4 Sydenham Park 1, Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Glen Eira 1 Beaumaris 1 3, Sandringham City 1 Hampton 2 3, Hampton 1 East Bentleigh 2, Bayside Argonauts Brighton 1, Brighton 22 Brightont 31, Dandenong Warriors Beaumaris 2	FC Bulleen Lions	Yarra Jets	30 1 0 12 10 77 3
Boys West 20 C: Bye Melton, Satellite City Utd Altona City, Western Eagles Point Cook FC, Williamstown 0 Werribee City 8	Girls West - North West - North 13-14 V: Cairnlea 2 Willmington 1, Diamond Valley Utd 3 Keilor Park 3, Yarra Jets 4 Sydenham Park 1, Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras	South East SSF Boys 11 Joeys Green (Sat): Glen Eira 1 Beaumaris 1 3, Sandringham City 1 Hampton 2 3, Hampton 1 East Bentleigh 2, Bayside Argonauts Brighton 1, Brighton 22 Brightont 31, Dandenong Warriors Beaumaris 2	FC Bulleen Lions	Yarra Jets	31 1 0 12 10 77 3
Boys West 20 D: Bye Melton, Satellite City Utd Altona City, Western Eagles Point Cook FC, Williamstown 0 Werribee City 8	Girls West - North West - North 13-14 W: Cairnlea 2 Willmington 1, Diamond Valley Utd 3 Keilor Park 3, Yarra Jets 4 Sydenham Park 1, Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras				



Girls Central - North	East	East	15-16	A	Cairnlea	14 5 1 8 31 49 16	North East-Central SSF Boys	11 Kangaroo	Blue (Sat)	Yarra Jets	12 6 0 6 31 30 18	South SSF Boys	11 Kangaroos	Line (Sun)						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	P	W	Watsonia Heights	12 5 0 7 20 33 15	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		
Boroondara Eagles	13	11	2	0	7	0	12	35	11	Banyule City	11 2 1 8 6 33 7	Hampton Park Utd	14	12	0	2	6	30	38	
Ashburton	13	9	2	3	2	37	11	29	11	Whittlesea Ranges FC	11 1 0 10 8 50 3	Berwick City	14	11	2	1	7	33	35	
Croydon City Arrows	12	8	3	1	3	33	11	27	11	Bundoora Utd 2	11 0 1 10 6 51 1	Casey Comets	14	9	1	4	5	39	28	
FC Bulleen Lions	13	6	4	3	32	12	22		Elwood City	13 6 0 7 30 34 18	South Springvale	14	8	2	4	5	36	26		
Whitehorse Utd	12	6	1	5	28	22	19		Richmond 1	12 11 1 0 50 7 34	Mornington	14	8	0	6	48	38	24		
Knox City	13	6	0	7	18	18	18		FC Bulleen Lions 1	12 10 0 2 39 3 32	Carrum Utd	14	6	3	5	33	25	21		
Mooroolbark	12	3	2	7	11	26	11		Epping City	13 10 0 3 34 18 30	South Eastern Piranhas	14	5	3	6	41	41	18		
Doncaster Rovers	13	3	2	8	25	42	11		FC Bulleen Lions 2	12 7 1 4 33 16 22	Endeavour Utd	14	4	1	9	20	37	13		
Kensington JGSC	13	2	2	9	19	51	8		Ashburton	13 2 0 11 12 51 6	Keysborough	14	1	0	13	24	70	3		
Sherbrooke Rangers	14	0	2	12	9	77	2		Yarra Jets	13 0 0 13 9 50 0	Langwarrin	14	0	0	14	3	70	0		
Girls Central - North	East	East	15-16	B	Central SSF Boys	11 Joeys (Sun)	North East-Central SSF Boys	11 Kangaroo	Blue (Sat)	Yarra Jets	12 6 0 6 31 30 18	South SSF Boys	11 Kangaroos	Line (Sun)						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	P	W	Watsonia Heights	12 5 0 7 20 33 15	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		
Box Hill Inter	14	12	1	1	7	30	10	37	Richmond 2	12 3 3 6 18 15 12	Banyule City	11 2 1 8 6 33 7	Hampton Park Utd	14	12	0	2	6	30	38
South Melbourne	13	9	1	3	35	16	28		Boroondara Eagles	12 3 1 8 11 42 10	Casey Comets	14	9	1	4	5	39	28		
Alphington	14	9	1	4	33	15	28		Ashburton	13 2 0 11 12 51 6	South Springvale	14	8	2	4	5	36	26		
Boroondara Eagles 2	14	7	2	5	36	24	23		Yarra Jets	13 0 0 13 9 50 0	Mornington	14	8	0	6	48	38	24		
Boroondara Eagles 1	14	7	1	6	40	30	22		FC Clifton Hill	12 7 1 4 38 16 22	Carrum Utd	14	6	3	5	33	25	21		
Ashburton	13	4	0	9	21	56	12		Port Melbourne	14 6 1 7 46 42 19	South Eastern Piranhas	14	5	3	6	41	41	18		
Oakleigh Cannons	14	2	1	11	9	40	7		Malvern City	13 5 3 5 38 34 18	Endeavour Utd	14	4	1	9	20	37	13		
Nunawading City FC	14	1	1	12	12	88	1		Yarra Jets	14 2 0 12 20 55 6	Keysborough	14	1	0	13	24	70	3		
Girls Central - North	East	East	15-16	C	Central SSF Boys	11 Kangaroos (Sun)	North East-Central SSF Boys	11 Kangaroo	Yellow (Sat)	Yarra Jets	12 6 0 6 31 30 18	South SSF Boys	11 Kangaroos	Line (Sun)						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	P	W	Watsonia Heights	12 5 0 7 20 33 15	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		
Glen Waverley	14	11	1	2	34	8	34		Richmond 1	12 11 1 0 51 7 33	Banyule City	11 2 1 8 6 33 7	Hampton Park Utd	14	12	0	2	6	30	38
Waverley Victory	14	9	1	4	45	25	28		FC Clifton Hill	12 10 0 2 45 14 30	Casey Comets	14	11	2	1	5	35	24		
Oakleigh Cannons	14	7	1	6	20	23	22		Riversdale	12 8 3 1 34 16 27	South Springvale	14	9	2	4	5	36	26		
Watsonia Heights	14	6	3	5	39	25	21		FC Bulleen Lions 1	12 7 1 4 27 22 22	Mornington	14	7	5	2	4	22	26		
Brandon Park	14	7	0	7	35	28	21		Ashburton	13 2 0 11 10 55 6	Carrum Utd	14	6	3	5	33	24	17		
FC Bulleen Lions	13	5	2	6	25	18	17		Yarra Jets	14 0 0 11 6 41 0	South Eastern Piranhas	14	5	3	6	41	41	18		
Greenvale Utd	14	4	2	8	18	38	14		FC Clifton Hill	12 7 1 4 27 22 22	Endeavour Utd	14	4	1	9	20	37	13		
DOC Utd	13	1	0	12	16	67	3		Port Melbourne	14 10 0 4 46 16 30	Keysborough	14	1	0	13	24	70	3		
Girls Central - North	East	East	15-16	D	Central SSF Boys	11 Kangaroos (Sun)	North East-Central SSF Boys	11 Kangaroo	Yellow (Sat)	Yarra Jets	12 6 0 6 31 30 18	South SSF Boys	11 Kangaroos	Line (Sun)						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	P	W	Watsonia Heights	12 5 0 7 20 33 15	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		
Yarra Jets	14	11	3	0	64	16	36		Richmond 1	12 11 1 0 51 7 33	Banyule City	11 2 1 8 6 33 7	Hampton Park Utd	14	12	0	2	6	30	38
Eltham Redback FC	13	10	2	1	47	8	32		FC Clifton Hill	12 10 0 2 45 14 30	Casey Comets	14	11	2	1	5	35	24		
Eastern Lions	14	6	1	7	16	30	19		Riversdale	12 8 3 1 34 16 27	South Springvale	14	9	2	4	5	36	26		
Boronia	13	3	3	7	22	33	12		FC Bulleen Lions 1	12 7 1 4 27 22 22	Mornington	14	7	5	2	4	22	26		
South Yarra	14	3	2	9	15	45	11		Ashburton	13 2 0 11 10 55 6	Carrum Utd	14	6	3	5	33	24	17		
Croydon City Arrows	14	1	3	10	17	49	6		Yarra Jets	14 0 0 11 6 41 0	South Eastern Piranhas	14	5	3	6	41	41	18		
Girls South	East	-	South	13-14	A	Oakleigh Cannons 3	14 13 0 1 68 6 39	North East-Central SSF Boys	11 Joeys (Sun)	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT				
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	P	W	Watsonia Heights	12 5 0 7 20 33 15	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		
Yarra Jets	14	11	3	0	64	16	36		Richmond 1	12 11 1 0 51 7 33	Banyule City	11 2 1 8 6 33 7	Hampton Park Utd	14	12	0	2	6	30	38
Monroobark	14	3	2	1	47	8	32		FC Clifton Hill	12 10 0 2 45 14 30	Casey Comets	14	11	2	1	5	35	24		
North Caulfield	14	6	1	7	21	30	19		Riversdale	12 8 3 1 34 16 27	South Springvale	14	9	2	4	5	36	26		
Peninsula	13	2	0	6	20	27	18		FC Bulleen Lions 1	12 7 1 4 27 22 22	Mornington	14	7	5	2	4	22	26		
Brighton	13	2	1	9	42	25	27		Ashburton	13 2 0 11 10 55 6	Carrum Utd	14	6	3	5	33	24	17		
North Caulfield	12	1	1	8	16	34	10		Yarra Jets	14 0 0 11 6 41 0	South Eastern Piranhas	14	5	3	6	41	41	18		
Southern Stars	12	3	0	9	10	40	9		FC Clifton Hill	12 7 1 4 27 22 22	Endeavour Utd	14	4	1	9	20	37	13		
Glen Eira	13	1	4	8	9	26	7		Port Melbourne	14 10 0 4 46 16 30	Keysborough	14	1	0	13	24	70	3		
Yarra Jets	14	1	1	12	8	70	4		FC Clifton Hill	12 10 0 2 45 14 30	Langwarrin	14	0	0	14	42	63	0		
Girls South	East	-	South	13-14	B	East SSF Boys	11 Kangaroos (Sat)	North East-Central SSF Boys	11 Kangaroo	Green (Sat)	Yarra Jets	12 6 0 6 31 30 18	South SSF Boys	11 Kangaroos	Line (Sun)					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	P	W	Watsonia Heights	12 5 0 7 20 33 15	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		
Sandringham	13	13	0	7	0	30	39		Richmond 1	12 11 1 0 50 7 34	Banyule City	11 2 1 8 6 33 7	Hampton Park Utd	14	12	0	2	6	30	38

# Drop zone clubs dig the heels in

By Niki Cook

The focus for Round 15 of the Victorian Women's Premier League was at the less glamorous end of the ladder, with the bottom four teams facing off against each other in the battle to avoid relegation. Bendigo and South Melbourne were the two teams to emerge victorious, virtually ensuring their safety in the process. In other matches, Heidelberg and Casey shared the points, while Sandringham enjoyed a comfortable victory over a potential finals opponent.

Bendigo Vipers made its position in the WPL all but safe for another season, with a crucial 4-1 victory away at Preston Lions on Saturday. With only three points between the two sides going into the match, the clash at BT Connor Reserve loomed as a real relegation battle. The match remained poised on a knife edge at half time, with the visiting team enjoying a slender one goal lead. Bendigo, however, was able to extend its advantage after the interval, outscoring its host by three goals to one to claim its fourth victory of the season. Sarah Richardson, Ilona Jakab, Jackie Pennell and Catherine Wylie-O'Brien were the Bendigo goalscorers, with Larissa Werbiuk scoring Preston's consolation. Preston remains in second last position on the ladder with three games remaining, but with two of those matches coming against the top two teams. Its Round 17 encounter with Altona City now takes on even more significance as it looks likely to decide which side will drop to Division 1. Bendigo remains seventh on the ladder, with fifteen points.

In the other relegation battle, South Melbourne also virtually guaranteed its WPL status with a 3-1 triumph over Altona City at HC Kim Reserve. Two first half goals from Niki Cook and Lucrece Laverdure put the visiting side in control, with Laura Spiranovic securing the three points with a sealer fifteen minutes from time. Sophia Isofidis scored for Altona four minutes from time, but it was too little too late for the home side, which slumped to its ninth defeat for the season. The victory ensures that South stay sixth on the ladder, now with fifteen points, and with Preston and Altona still to play against each other, it should be enough to avoid the drop. Altona remains at the bottom of the ladder, one point behind Preston, which it meets in a fortnight's time.

Heidelberg United and Casey Comets split the points at Olympic Village on Sunday, a result that keeps Heidelberg in second place on the ladder whilst also keeping Casey's slender finals' hopes alive. The home side grabbed the upper hand five minutes before the interval through Melanie Camilleri, but Casey squared the ledger five minutes after the break through Natalie Grubic. The draw was Heidelberg's first for the season, and it remains second, but has lost ground on top side Box Hill Inter which is now two points ahead. Casey stays fifth, four points behind Ashburton, which it plays in two weeks time, so it could yet sneak into the top four.



Bendigo defender Alex Cheal has Preston's Paula Massouh hot on her heels. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

Sandringham made a big statement at Ashburton Park on Sunday, with a 4-0 demolition of the home side. Ashburton's season looks to be faltering at the wrong time, with it only just avoiding defeat last weekend against Preston, and this week suffering a heavy loss. Sandringham made its intentions clear from the start, scoring in the opening minute of the game, before doubling the advantage nine minutes later. The visitor added a further two unanswered goals after half time. Stephanie Catley was on song for Sandy, scoring a hat-trick, with Michelle Parton the other goalscorer. With the two sides currently on course to meet in the elimination final, this result should give Sandringham a significant psychological advantage over its nearest rival. The teams remain third and fourth on the ladder, with Sandringham still a chance to snatch second place from Heidelberg, which is two points ahead of it.

Next weekend the action begins on Friday night, when Box Hill Inter returns to action against Preston Lions. With relegation still on the horizon for Preston, it will be out to get at least a point, while Box Hill will be aware a slip could see it relinquish top spot to Heidelberg. Casey Comets and Bendigo Vipers meet at Comets Stadium on Sunday, in a match that both need to win for different reasons. Victory for the regional side will finally guarantee its WPL status for next year, while Casey needs a win to keep up the push for a place in the top four. Ashburton plays its third consecutive home match when it hosts Heidelberg United, and it will hope it fares better than this week, but it faces a tough challenge as it faces the league's second-placed side. The final match of the round pits Sandringham against Altona City at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex on Monday night. South Melbourne has the bye.



The ref makes sure he gets the right number as Ilona Jakab congratulates Jacki Pennell (5) who has just scored Bendigo's second goal. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

## WPL RESULTS

Preston Lions 1  
(L Werbiuk)  
Bendigo Vipers 4  
(S Richardson | Jakab J Pennell  
CS Wylie-O'Brien)

Altona City 1  
South Melbourne 3  
(L Spiranovic)

Heidelberg Utd 1  
(M Camilleri)  
Casey Comets 1 (N Grubic)  
Ashburton 0  
Sandringham 4  
(M Parton S Catley 3)

Reserves:  
Preston Lions 1 BASL 1,  
Altona City 0 South Melbourne  
4, Heidelberg Utd Casey Comets, Ashburton 8 Sandringham 0

## WPL NEXT ROUND

Box Hill Inter v Preston Lions  
Wembley Park  
Fri 6 Aug KO 8:30PM

Casey Comets v Bendigo Vipers  
Comets Stadium  
Sun 8 Aug KO 1:00PM

Ashburton v Heidelberg Utd  
Ashburton Park  
Sun 8 Aug KO 3:00PM

Sandringham v Altona City  
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex  
Mon 9 Aug KO 8:30PM

Bye v South Melbourne Womens

## WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Box Hill Inter	13	9	3	1	37	10	30
Heidelberg Utd	13	9	1	3	31	15	28
Sandringham	14	8	2	4	28	15	26
Ashburton	13	7	1	5	33	25	22
Casey Comets	13	5	2	6	20	23	17
South Melbourne	14	4	3	7	16	22	15
Bendigo Vipers	14	4	3	7	17	25	15
Preston Lions	13	2	3	8	13	35	9
Altona City	13	2	2	9	9	34	8

## WPL RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ashburton	13	10	2	1	55	9	32
South Melbourne	14	7	3	4	27	15	24
Box Hill Inter	13	7	2	4	31	14	23
Casey Comets	12	7	2	3	24	10	23
Heidelberg Utd	12	6	4	2	25	11	22
Sandringham	14	6	4	4	21	25	22
BASL	14	3	2	9	12	46	11
Altona City	13	1	2	10	12	35	5
Preston Lions	13	0	3	10	7	49	3

For more WPL news visit  
Emma Field's blog <http://fromthebackline.blogspot.com>

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# Bottleneck push for VPL promotion

By Aritro Abedin

The race for promotion to next year's VPL became an almighty bottleneck in this weekend's State League 1 action with Fawkner snatching second place from Langwarrin with a win over league leaders Springvale White Eagles in this round's marquee contest at CB Smith Reserve.

However, this week also saw Langwarrin taking on fellow promotion chasers Pascoe Vale in a contest of no less importance in this year's promotion race, and George Kakaletsis' resurgent Vale continued their stellar run by taking the points at Lawton Park Reserve. Meanwhile, the designation 'promotion chaser' was more or less rendered redundant as a win for North Geelong Warriors and a draw between Bulleen and Western Suburbs ensured that only three points now separate 2nd and 7th.

Fawkner Blues went into the contest against table-topping Springvale White Eagles hoping to erase a two-match losing streak which saw them concede second place to Langwarrin. However Ken Murphy will have been delighted with the response from his charges as they put the club's season back on course with a 2-0 win that demonstrated his squad's character.

Orhan Kara continued to do what he does best by adding another strike to his impressive tally for the season. Meanwhile, the crowd at CB Smith Reserve were treated to the less familiar sight of Frank Tramontana scoring a goal in Fawkner colours. In many respects it has been a tumultuous season for the Blues with financial difficulties putting the club in a precarious position before the season had even begun.

The club were forced into a rethink which saw them promote their own youth team products while scouring the squad lists of VPL and State League clubs for players with late 1980s and early 1990s birthdates and offering them an opportunity to play that they may not have otherwise have had. With up to a dozen such young players in their squad, things could very well have gone pear-shaped very quickly, but credit is due to men like Ken Murphy for not only stabilizing the club but also molding a very young team that has a genuine chance of playing in the VPL next season.

Meanwhile Pascoe Vale have continued their dream run with a 1-0 win over Gus Mcleod's Langwarrin that takes them into fourth place on 27 points, only one point behind second placed Fawkner.



White Eagles keeper Branislav Karaga is too late to stop Frank Tramontana slotting home Fawkner's second goal. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

Bale Micovski got the decisive strike in this match with what was his second goal in three weeks.

Pascoe Vale's revival began in Round 10 when an injury depleted squad found themselves close to the bottom of the table and facing up against a plucky Malvern City side that had already snatched its share of upsets for the season.

However George Kakaletsis' men responded in superb style on that day with super-striker Luca Santilli grabbing a stunning haul of four goals on the way to a 5-0 demolition. Pascoe Vale have managed to take 17 points out of a possible 21 since then, and with a number of key players coming back into the line-up, they appear to be peaking at the right time in their quest for promotion to the VPL after leapfrogging Langwarrin into 4th place.

The other key encounter of the round was played at Ralph Reserve as Western Suburbs played host to visiting Bulleen. Bulleen needed a win to go two points clear in second place while Suburbs were looking to continue on from last weekend's stabilizing win against Springvale to keep themselves at the business of the table.

Ultimately, it ended in a 1-1 draw that would have pleased visiting Bulleen a lot more than it pleased the home side. Taking a point away from home represents an achievement of no small importance in this division, and the Lions will have been delighted to emerge with a result in difficult conditions against Lorenz Kindner's well drilled Suburbs outfit.

Bulleen will have an opportunity to leapfrog Fawkner into second place when the two teams face off at Veneto Social Club next Sunday.



Kruno Stanisic (SWE), who was later taken to hospital with a head injury, outjumps Ahmet Turer (Fawkner). PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Scars of battle ... Kruno Stanisic is assisted from the field after a clash of heads. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

## SL1 RESULTS

**Fawkner Blues 2** (F Tramontana O Kara)  
**Springvale White Eagles 0**

**FC Clifton Hill 1** (J Portillo)  
**St Albans Saints 3**  
(M Alibeyi M Cvitkovic T Razov)

**Langwarrin 0**  
**Pascoe Vale 1** (B Micovski)

**Whittlesea Zebras 0**  
**North Geelong Warriors 1**  
(R Zadworny)

**Preston Lions 4**  
(R Najdovski 2)  
**Malvern City 0**

**Western Suburbs 1**  
**FC Bulleen Lions 1**  
(D Peluso)

**Under 21s:**  
Fawkner Blues 1 Springvale White Eagles 1, FC Clifton Hill 4 St Albans Saints 0, Langwarrin 2 Pascoe Vale 6, Western Suburbs 3 FC Bulleen Lions 3, Whittlesea Zebras 3 North Geelong Warriors 4, Preston Lions 0 Malvern City 1

## SL1 NEXT ROUND

**Round 17**  
**North Geelong Warriors v Preston Lions**  
Elcho Park  
Fri 6 Aug KO 8:30PM

**Pascoe Vale v Whittlesea Zebras**  
Hosken Reserve  
Sat 7 Aug KO 3:00PM

**Malvern City v Western Suburbs**  
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex  
Sat 7 Aug KO 3:00PM

**St Albans Saints v Langwarrin**  
Churchill Reserve  
Sun 8 Aug KO 3:00PM

**FC Bulleen Lions v Fawkner Blues**  
Veneto Social Club  
Mon 9 Aug KO 8:30PM

**Springvale White Eagles v FC Clifton Hill**  
White Eagles Stadium  
Mon 9 Aug KO 8:30PM

## SL1 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Springvale White Eagles	16	10	2	4	31	18	32
Fawkner Blues	16	8	4	4	25	17	28
FC Bulleen Lions	16	7	6	3	28	13	27
Pascoe Vale	16	8	3	5	25	19	27
Langwarrin	16	8	2	6	27	28	26
North Geelong Warriors	16	7	4	5	23	12	25
Western Suburbs	16	6	7	3	26	18	25
St Albans Saints	16	6	8	2	33	23	23
Whittlesea Zebras	16	6	3	7	19	21	21
FC Clifton Hill	16	3	1	12	20	33	10
Malvern City	16	3	1	12	9	42	10
Preston Lions	16	2	3	11	15	37	9

## SL1 U21 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Geelong Warriors	16	11	3	2	38	16	36
FC Bulleen Lions	16	10	3	3	35	20	33
Langwarrin	16	10	2	4	33	24	32
Pascoe Vale	16	10	0	6	41	25	30
Springvale White Eagles	16	7	4	5	35	24	25
Whittlesea Zebras	15	6	4	5	28	23	22
Western Suburbs	14	6	2	6	25	37	20
St Albans Saints	16	7	1	8	26	28	19
Preston Lions	16	4	3	9	29	34	15
FC Clifton Hill	15	3	4	8	19	32	13
Malvern City	16	3	3	10	19	39	12
Fawkner Blues	16	1	3	12	9	35	6

# RESULTS & LADDERS

# Victorian State & Provisional Leagues - Round 16

## ROUND 17 FIXTURES

All matches to be played on Saturday 7th August  
with 3pm KO unless otherwise stated.

### State NW 2

Whittlesea Ranges v Ballarat Red Devils

Epping Soccer Stadium Fri 6 Aug KO 8:30PM

Altona City v Moreland City

HC Kim Reserve

Brunswick City v Altona East Phoenix

Dunstan Reserve

Geelong Rangers v Banyule City

Myers Reserve

Werribee City v Sydenham Park

Galvin Park Reserve

Williamstown v Port Melbourne

JT Gray Reserve

### State SE 2

Eastern Lions v Doncaster Rovers

Gardiners Creek Reserve

Dandenong City v Casey Comets

Frank Holahan Soccer Reserve

Southern Stars v Berwick City

Ross Reserve

Heatherton Utd v Diamond Valley Utd

Bosnia & Herzegovina Centre

Knox City v Morwell Pegasus

Egan Lee Reserve

Southern Suburbs v Frankston Pines

Keeley Park

### State NW 3

Hume Utd v Essendon Utd

Laura Douglas Reserve

Keilor Park v Sunbury Utd

Keilor Park Reserve

La Trobe University v Geelong

Latrone Uni Lower Playing Field

Maribyrnong Greens v Cairnlea

Maribyrnong Greens v Cairnlea

Hume Utd v Essendon Utd

Laura Douglas Reserve

Keilor Park v Sunbury Utd

Keilor Park Reserve

### State SE 3

Croydon City Arrows v Springvale City

Dorset Recreational Res Fri 6 Aug KO 8:30PM

Fitzroy City v Waverley Wanderers

Fairfield Park

Nunawading City FC v Noble Park Utd

Mahoneys Road Reserve

South Springvale v Brandon Park

Warner Reserve

Mornington v Kingston City

Dallas Brooks Park

Peninsula Strikers v North Caulfield

Centenary Park Sun 8 Aug KO 3:00PM

### Provi NW 1

Corio v Elwood City

Hume Reserve, Geelong North

Melbourne City v Avondale Heights

Edwards Reserve

North Sunshine Eagles v South Yarra

Larissa Reserve

Northern Falcons v FC Strathmore

Hayes Park

Westgate v North City Lions

McKeechnie Reserve

Whittlesea Utd v Laverton Park SC

Thomas Street Recreation Reserve

### Provi SE 1

Warragul Utd v Old Scotch

Baxter Park (Warragul)

Beaumaris v Doveton

Beaumaris Reserve

Boroondara Eagles v Old Camberwell Grammar

Macleay Park

Monash University v Sandringham City

Monash University Sports Oval

Monbulk v Mooroolbark

Monbulk Recreation Reserve

Old Melburnians v Dandenong Sparrows

Robert Menzies Reserve

### Provi NW 2

Bell Park v Hoppers Crossing

Bell Park Sports Club

Collingwood City v West Preston

Kevin Bartlett Reserve

Lalor Utd v Surf Coast

HR Uren Reserve

Melton v Melbourne Tornado

MacPhersons Park

Moreland Utd v Epping City

Moomba Park Reserve

Plenty Valley Lions v Western Eagles

Sycamore Reserve

Bayside Argonauts v Endeavour Utd

Shipston Reserve

### Provi SE 2

Skye Utd v Berwick Kings

Skye Recreational Reserve

Caulfield Cobras v Lyndale Utd

Victory Park

Whitehorse Utd v Riversdale

Terrara Park

Old Carey v Uni. Of Melbourne Blues SC

Carey Sports Complex

Old Brighton Grammarians v Ashburton

Dendy Park

Bayside Argonauts v Endeavour Utd

Shipston Reserve

### Provi NW 3

Mill Park v Meadow Park Eagles

Findon Reserve

Youth Utd v Upfield

Seth Raistrick Reserve

Brunswick Zebras v Brimbank Stallions

Summer Park

Hillsview Recreation Reserve

Keilor Wolves v Darebin Utd

Green Gully Reserve

Northern Roosters v Watsonia Heights

Gibb Reserve

### Provi SE 3

East Bentleigh v Manningham

Bailey Reserve

Essendon Royals v Eltham Redbacks

Ormond Park

Old Trinity Grammarians v Brighton

Trinity Sports Ground

Rowville Eagles v Keysborough

Park Ridge Reserve

Seaford Utd v Noble Park

North Seaford Reserve

White Star Dandenong v Glen Waverley FC

Greaves Reserve

### Seniors

### STATE NORTH WEST 2

### Reserves

Port Melbourne 0 Whittlesea Ranges 0, Altona East Phoenix 2 (N Papadopoulos) Geelong Rangers 0, Ballarat Red Devils 1 (S Winch) Brunswick City 0, Banyule City 0 Altona City 2, Moreland City 5 (O Simsek 2 K Simsek PA Dickie 2) Werribee City 1 (S Bulbul), Sydenham Park 2 (P Dimovski Own Goal) Williamstown 0

Port Melbourne 1 Whittlesea Ranges 4, Altona East Phoenix 2 Geelong Rangers 0, Ballarat Red Devils 3 Brunswick City 0, Banyule City 0 Altona City 2, Moreland City 2 Werribee City 1, Sydenham Park 3 Williamstown 1

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
16	11	4	1	28	6	37
16	8	7	1	30	15	31
16	8	3	5	23	19	27
16	7	3	6	22	20	24
16	6	5	5	24	17	23
16	6	5	5	28	23	23
16	6	4	6	15	16	22
16	6	2	6	8	22	21
16	3	7	6	16	20	16
16	2	4	10	8	25	10
16	2	2	12	8	40	8

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
16	13	2	1	34	12	35
16	12	0	4	35	19	34
16	9	5	2	46	18	32
16	7	4	5	28	22	25
16	7	2	7	26	21	23
16	6	4	6	30	32	22
16	6	4	6	30	32	22
16	6	3	7	19	21	22
16	4	3	9	15	22	15
16	4	6	6	12	20	15
16	3	5	8	13	26	14
16	2	7	7	13	26	13
16	1	6	8	14	29	9

### Seniors

### STATE NORTH WEST 3

### Reserves

Geelong 3 (C Psimaris T Hardy M Gorosito) Yarraville Glory 1 (A Stojevski), Cairnlea 4 (S Sozer A Alcicve P Krstic O Abdulaqbal) Keilor Park 1 (S Mussel), Lalor 2 (B Arvanithi SS Todaro) Maribyrnong Greens 2 (A Kolaovic A Vasilevski), Sunbury Utd 1 (Z Romanovski) La Trobe University 3 (M Dinc D Greening 2), Essendon Utd 1 (P Devuono) Melbourne University 0, Westgate 2 (H Nunez J D'Alessi) Hume Utd 1 (E Karasungur)

Sunbury Utd 16 10 2 4 39 25 32 Geelong 16 9 2 5 37 27 29 Yarraville Glory 16 9 2 5 30 22 29 Keilor Park 16 8 5 3 23 19 29 Westgate 16 7 4 5 26 20 25 Hume Utd 16 7 3 6 21 20 24 Cairnlea 15 7 1 7 35 23 22 La Trobe University 15 6 3 6 28 21 21 Melbourne University 16 4 4 8 18 22 16 Lalor 16 2 7 1 7 17 30 13 Essendon Utd 16 2 5 9 22 43 11 Maribyrnong Greens 16 3 4 9 16 33 10

### Seniors

### PROVI 1 NORTH WEST

### Reserves

Avondale Heights 1 (M Jancic) Whittlesea Utd 1 (J Barrientos), Elwood City 1 (J Oakes) Melbourne City 2 (NG Alvarez 2), FC Strathmore 2 (A Kranjinovic T Cuk) North Sunshine Eagles 1 (G Musila), Laverton Park 1 (R Castro) Northern Falcons 1 (M Vizzini), North City Lions 2 (D



# V-LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP

Round 14

## Battles from Top to bottom

By Adam Husseini

### Ashburton FC v FC Carlton 18 - 6

The card opener was grim sight for Carlton manager James Danos as his side conceded 18 goals in a thrashing of epic proportions. James Blackburn was back in town for the green machine Ashburton and he scored no less than five goals, Markelis had a better week also scoring five in a rout that was a combination of Ashburton hitting some late season form and Carlton capitulating. Carlton was down to bare bones commencing the game without any substitutes. A combination of unfortunate circumstances had Carlton without Serai Isa & a host of players that had played so well the previous week. Paul Vidic was absent from the Ashburton bench but his side grabbed a vital three points after last weeks hammering by Pascoe Vale. Carlton looks a certainty for relegation.

### Albert Park FC v Essendon 7 - 6

This clash had rivalry even before Filipovic transferred from Albert Park to Essendon and then back to Albert Park! He led the royal blue in the absence of Zoran Matic. The 2009 champions Essendon had a more familiar look to the side with several regulars back. Zoran Subic was unfortunately late, so flanker Dejan Tasic started in goals and he conceded a few simple goals. Filipovic played like ten men and scored a vital hat-trick in his sides amazing 7-6 victory. Few would've predicted an Albert Park win but Essendon haven't set the world alight this season either. Alexander Stevanovic leads the goal scoring charts amazingly as his side lay 9th in relegation territory.

### Mickleham v Fitzroy FC 5 - 12

Fitzroy FC & new kids on the block Mickleham FC fought out a fantastic prime time clash that had football and Futsal stars alike out on the court. Fitzroy was without Minopolous and had young gun Mohammed Kurucu in the line up, Mickleham play a fast & furious tempo from the get go, with Colosimo, Marusic & Filipovic all starring and they slugged it out in a goal for goal war of attrition. They forced Fitzroy into numerous mistakes early on and could've punished the top of the table team. Fitzroy had chances of their own with Husseini & Burton guilty of missing chances. Mickleham's brave resistance and large spells of possession counted for little as they went into the break 3-2 up. Fitzroy turned it on in the second half, put still couldn't completely pull away from Mickleham at 6-5. Joao Da Silva & Mark Burton have gelled beautifully for Adam Husseini's

### Hume FC v Metropolitan 5 - 5

Frothers (Futsal Oz fans & regulars) hung around for what was actually a 10:45pm kick off. State League champions battled FOZ cup runners up in a gargantuan physical encounter, take two! The big boys hustled and hustled in the last game of the night after watching all the action unfold previously. Nedjet Sahin was absent for Hume, but Lamanda was back for his second game and Hume looked as dangerous as ever. Some neat interplay between

side and with Hammer prodding and probing and Kurucu showing some nice touches, Fitzroy piled on the pressure and the goals in remarkable 12-5 finish.

### Nth Melb FC v FC Prahran 2 - 3

Majestical Maxim Avram led his troops out in again in a David vs. goliath battle against juggernaut North Melbourne. North had a depleted squad but still had stars like Cooper, Polatti & Melo on the court. Both sides peppered each others goal with arguably the two best keepers in the competition in fine form. Rasoulzadeh kept North in the game on numerous occasions with a series of fantastic saves. Even after North conceded woefully from an Avram corner to Mogoai for a back post finish, he made save after save, North just couldn't find the killer instinct to break Prahran down and beat Shakhanov in goal. Milton was left ruined the court invasion that had several of his stars suspended and he was even more devastated as his side dropped three points in their third quest for silverware since playing in the V-League. The giant killers did it again with Muktar and Mogoai junior fantastic, Prahran play for these victories and went home a happy bunch!

### Pascoe Vale v Brimbank FC 13 - 6

Promoted Brimbank took on the champions Pascoe Vale who had looked so deadly in the week prior. Brimbank started in fine form with an early goal to Amir Emeti thumping a top corner toe poker. Brimbank had a sense of urgency about them really setting their stall and trying to shut down Pascoe Vale, but Barbosa junior was not to be denied equalizing with a chest beating thumper. He linked up well with Brazilian compatriot Andre Caro, and with Simsek & Grgic the engines in the side this V8 team of a side look stronger than the side that won the league and cup double the previous season. As good as Brimbank was there was no stopping Ari Simos's Pascoe Vale. 13-6 a justified victory and a clear message to anybody who has the black and white in the next few weeks, watch out!

### Hume FC v Metropolitan 5 - 5

Frothers (Futsal Oz fans & regulars) hung around for what was actually a 10:45pm kick off. State League champions battled FOZ cup runners up in a gargantuan physical encounter, take two! The big boys hustled and hustled in the last game of the night after watching all the action unfold previously. Nedjet Sahin was absent for Hume, but Lamanda was back for his second game and Hume looked as dangerous as ever. Some neat interplay between



Alexander the Great 3 times top scorer might be applying his trade in the State LEAGUE Championship if FC Essendon don't have a change of form.



Metropolitan FC's Star, Ricardo Castro is relieved after a last second penalty is saved by his keeper J. Ng in a cracker round 14 clash that ended 5 all vs Hume FC



Nth Melbourne FC's Milton Sakkos pumps up his troops at half time, the championship is slowly slipping away.

Alija & Zilic undid a lot of good work for Hume as Metropolitan dictated early proceedings. Spijodic had changed teams again, he now found himself on the pine at Metro eager to come on. The early momentum pendulum swung as Hume worked their way back into the game. A series of fifth foul penalties would decide the game with Lamanda scoring a vital one to take the score to

5-4 with Metro hanging on by a goal! Jason Ng saved a hat-trick of certain goals before conceding the 5-5 equaliser as Lamanda went to the spot after the buzzer. He thumped a shot goal bound but Jason jack in the box Ng reacted well saving low to his right. Metro owe Jason for saving a point and will be ruing dropping two points at a vital stage in the title race.

### V-League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Fitzroy FC	14	12	1	1	91	58	33	37
2 Metropolitan FC	14	9	3	2	121	85	36	30
3 Pascoe Vale FC	14	9	1	4	93	66	27	28
4 Nth Melbourne FC	14	9	1	4	78	53	25	28
5 Hume FC	14	7	2	5	70	61	9	23
6 Ashburton FC	14	7	0	7	88	83	5	21
7 FC Prahran	14	6	2	6	67	69	-2	20
8 Mickleham FC	14	6	1	7	77	78	-1	19
9 FC Essendon	14	3	3	8	75	78	-3	12
10 Brimbank FC	14	3	3	8	72	82	-10	12
11 Albert Park FC	14	3	1	10	63	84	-21	10
12 FC Carlton	14	1	0	13	53	151	-98	3

### Round 14 Results

July 28

- 6:30 Ashburton FC v FC Carlton 18 - 6
- 7:15 Albert Park FC v Essendon FC 7 - 6
- 8:00 Mickleham v Fitzroy FC 5 - 12
- 8:45 Nth Melbourne FC v FC Prahran 2 - 3
- 9:30 Pascoe Vale FC v Brimbank FC 13 - 6
- 10:15 Hume FC v Metropolitan 5 - 5

### Round 15 Clashes

Aug 4

- 6:30 Albert Park FC v Fitzroy FC
- 7:15 Pascoe Vale FC v Carlton
- 8:00 Mickleham FC v Metropolitan FC
- 8:45 Brimbank FC v FC Essendon
- 9:30 Ashburton FC v FC Prahran
- 10:15 Nth Melbourne FC v Hume FC

### Top Scorers

1. Alexander Stevanovic FCE 39 goals
2. Vadam Mazurski BFC 32 goals
3. Leigh Minopoulos FFC 28 goals
4. Aljia Redzepovic MFC 27 goals
5. Ryan Filipovic MKFC 27 goals

### SouvlakiHut State League Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 FC Melbourne	12	8	0	4	54	39	15	24
2 FC Collingwood	10	7	0	3	71	37	34	21
3 Melbourne Uni FC	11	6	0	5	57	35	22	18
4 Doncaster FC	10	6	0	4	50	36	-14	18
5 Elsternwick FC	10	6	0	4	48	51	-3	18
6 CF Brunswick	11	5	0	6	53	63	-10	15
7 FC Maribyrnong	11	5	0	6	38	60	-22	15
8 FC Geelong	12	4	0	8	55	50	5	12
9 FC Balwyn	11	2	0	9	39	94	-55	3

### Round 13 Results

July 25

- 7:40 Doncaster FC v FC Geelong 6 - 2
- 8:20 CF Brunswick v FC Melbourne 1 - 2
- 9:00 Melb Uni FC v FC Balwyn FC 5 - 7
- 9:40 FC Maribyrnong v FC Collingwood 1 - 8
- Bye Elsternwick FC v Bye

### Round 14 Clashes

Aug 2

- 7:40 Elsternwick FC v FC Maribyrnong
- 8:20 FC Collingwood v FC Balwyn
- 9:00 Doncaster FC v FC Melbourne
- 9:40 CF Brunswick v Melbourne Uni FC
- Bye FC Geelong v Bye

PHOTOS BY  
Franco Lucchetti, Nick Chippas

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## BENTLEIGH GREENS



0

## MELBOURNE KNIGHTS



2

Match Stats:  
SHOTS: BG 5 MK 11  
TARGET: BG 2 MK 8  
CORNERS: BG 3 MK 5

Bentleigh Greens Line Up:  
1.Gavalas, 2.Stavritis, 4.Smart, 5.De Vito, 6.Anthopoulos, 9.Lokvancic, 10.Rojas, 12.Fadjevic, 17.Webster, 18.Sapazovski, 19.Piemonte (27. Sanita 21' (7.Crnic 70'))

Not Used: 21.Henry, 23.Selemidis, 43.Liolios

Goals: None  
Yellow Cards: Rojas 60', Stavridis 75'; Smart 81', Fadjevic 90'.

Melbourne Knights Line Up:  
1.Loncaric, 2.Filipovic, 4.Surey, 7.Cannell, 8.Magdic (15.A.Colosimo 85'), 10.Praiz, 11.Townson (9.Ples 61'), 12.Zahra, 13.Skara, 14.Dubios (16.J.Colosimo 82'), 17.Tiatto.

Goals: Skara 67', Zahra 69'  
Yellow Cards: Cannell 30', Dubios 76'.

MoM. Tomislav Skara (MK)

Crowd: Approx 600 @ Kingston Heath Soccer Complex



Tomislav Skara scores the Knights' opener. PHOTO: MKFC



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## KNIGHTS GET RUB OF THE GREENS

By Andrew Fisher

In their second relegation six-point in the space of a week, the Melbourne Knights did not slip up a 2-0 lead this time, as they overcame a lacklustre Bentleigh Greens in their vital Friday night match at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex.

Both sides began the match cagey, determined not to concede an early goal, the main highlight of the opening stages was Danny Tiatto being forced off the ground by the match official for wearing the wrong coloured bike shorts and having to strip on the bench.

With a strong and vocal travelling contingent in attendance the Knights looked the hungrier of the two sides, and their French import Jean-Claude Dubios created the first genuine chance of the match forcing a good save from Gavalas in the Greens goal.

The home side were forced into an early change as Piemonte was substituted in what appeared to be a hamstring injury.

Bentleigh seemed content to absorb the Knights pressure and hit them on the counter, this almost paid off when Scott Webster's 50 yard through ball looped over the Knights defence and into the path of Johnny Sapazovski, but the big man hit his shot over the bar from a tight angle.

Some fancy foot work from Dubois inside the penalty box, saw the striker turn three markers inside out and deliver a pinpoint cross to Magdic unmarked, but his header lacked any venom and was safely gathered by Gavalas.

A bursting run by Craig Smart saw the midfielder out pace two Knights defenders, but as he entered the penalty area he was met by a great tackle from big man Tomislav Skara, as the half ended nil all.

The visitors upped the tempo in the second half, pinning the entire Bentleigh side in their defensive half. Kevin Townson had two clear cut opportunities to open the scoring in the space of two minutes, but failed to hit the target on either occasion,

mainly due to selfishness and some back luck. The first chance he and Adrian Zahra both ran at the Greens' defence with the latter wide open to his left, but Townson choose not to square the ball, trying to do it all himself and shooting well over. The second chance coming when the striker was able to round the keeper, but slide his shot just inches wide of the upright.

Bentleigh almost made the Knights pay the ultimate price for their misses, as Santic's low cross was met by Lokvancic's shot only to be denied by a superb reflex save from Loncaric. Knights' coach Ivan Duzel sensed something special was needed to spark his side, and opted to throw on Tomislav Ples for Kevin Townson in the 60th minute..

Ples caused immediate problems for the Bentleigh defence, and after consecutive Knights' corners, the Canadian set up American born Skara who headed home for his first goal of the season, and giving the Knights a much deserved lead.

The large travelling support were in raptures, but just two minutes later they were sent into a frenzy as a slip up from Craig Smart, allowed youngster Adrian Zahra to chip over Gavalas and doubling the Knights' advantage.

Bentleigh coach Andy O'Dell decided to make a substitute of his own, and brought on Kurt Crnic who could have made an instant impact, but spurned a glorious chance to peg one back when he got on the end of a Rojas cross, but with an open goal beckoning he hit his shot to hard and to high.

This time the Knights' were able to hold onto their two goal advantage, and played out the rest of the match without incident, as the ill-disciplined Greens racked up three late yellow cards.

Bentleigh Greens face a crucial mid week catch up game against Northcote on Wednesday night at Kingston Heath, before they take on Hume City away on Sunday. The Knights can secure their safety with a win when they face Northcote City at Knights Stadium on Sunday.



Adam Fadjevic beats team mate Sammy De Vito to the ball as Josip Magdic is caught between them. PHOTO:JOHN PUNSHON



Adrian Zahra's goal puts the issue beyond doubt. PHOTO: ANITAS MILAS



The fans share the joy as the Knights creep away from the red zone. PHOTO:JOHN PUNSHON

GREEN GULLY



2

DANDENONG THUNDER



1

## Match Details:

Green Gully:

N.Roganovic, S.Burton,  
M.Medjedovic, D.Jones,  
R.Ollerton, J.Fleming,  
J.Hayne(M.Anderson),  
T.Gould(J.Groenewald),  
G.Hockless(M.Sanders),  
B.Fisher, A.Vargas.

Dandenong Thunder:

S.Webster, L.Osman,  
S.Rexhepi, D.Ukalovski(V.  
Korcarovski), V.Bahnson,  
R.Davidson, S.Bulloch,  
A.Wilford, L.Shorborn,  
B.Starosa, J.Reed(A.Audocai).

Green Gully: 2

Goals: Joshua Groenewald '80, Matthew Sanders '85  
Yellow Cards: A.Vargas '60, R.Ollerton '75, J.Groenewald '86

Dandenong Thunder: 1  
Goals: Denis Ukalovski '30  
Yellow Cards: N.Bahnson '86

Crowd: 600

Man of the Match: Nikola  
Roganovic (Green Gully)



Goal! Josh Groenewald levels the score for Gully as the ball eludes Stuart Webster. PHOTO: STEVE STAREK



Goal! Matt Sanders nails the all important winner for Gully. PHOTO: STEVE STAREK

# Gully A Point Away From Securing A Finals Place

By Markian Jaworsky

For the second consecutive week the Green Gully have turned around a one-nil deficit to win by two goals to one.

This week the opponent was a finals contender in Dandenong Thunder, and Gully capitalised on the "six-pointer".

The Cavaliers will now just need to secure a draw away to Heidelberg next week to be assured of a finals place in the 2010 finals series.

For the third consecutive week the Green Gully coaching staff have been forced to alter the starting eleven.

Unfortunately midfielder Jonathan Munoz is likely to miss the rest of the season, after falling victim to a knee injury sustained from an unpunished two footed challenge away to the Sunshine Georgies, and striker Gary Wales departed to seek his fortune on European soil. In some good news, Kiwi attacking midfielder Jason Hayne returned to the club to see out the remainder of the season.

Much like the first time these two teams played each other earlier this season, Green Gully enjoyed the majority of possession but were caught out on the counter attack. After 30 minutes of play, Dandenong scored from their first strike on the Gully goal. Dande-

nong's Denis Ukalovski kicked the ball with the power of a horse, and though Gully Goalkeeper Nikola Roganovic managed to get a hand on the ball, could not prevent the visitors from opening the scoring.

Gully continued to dominate possession throughout the remainder of the match, and it wasn't until the introductions of substitutes did Gully manage to break down a stubborn Dandenong defense. Joshua Groenewald replaced Timothy Gould in midfield, after Timothy was hit in the head by a heavy knock from the ball in the first half, and Matthew Sanders and Michael Anderson came on late in the second half. Groenewald got the equaliser in the 80th minute converting a Steven Burton cross, and Matthew Sanders got the winner five minutes later with a fine individual run down the middle of the pitch.

Speaking after the match, Gully Striker Brent Fisher was happy to speak of his participation in Gully's winning form; "Unfortunately when I came to the club, I got an injury that put me out for five weeks, but now have managed to play again at the right time of the season, going into the finals. We want to win our last two games, to finish as high as we possibly can."

In the Under 21's, Green Gully continued their good form, beating Dandenong by three goals to nil.



Gully's Steve Burton wins the aerial contest over Thunder's Denis Ukalovski. Photo: STEVE STAREK



Steve Burton awaits to give Matt Sanders a match winning hug. STEVE STAREK



Denis Ukalovski opens the score for Thunder with a thunderous drive. PHOTO: STEVE STAREK

NORTHCOTE CITY



5

HEIDELBERG UNITED



1

## Match Details:

**Northcote City:**  
 C.Petropoulos, H.D'Agostino  
 (G.Papadopoulos 78'),  
 A.Chiappetta, A.Jankovski,  
 H.Kinigopoulos, J.Voulgaris,  
 N.Curtis (E.Soares 73'),  
 P.Savio, M.McGough,  
 T.Rixon (S.Nicholson),  
 J.Kalifatidis.

**Scorers:** T.Rixon 25 pen, 29',  
 56', Own Goal 80', Papado-  
 poulos 84'

**Yellow cards:** C.Petropoulos  
 18', T.Rixon 42'

**Red cards:** None

**Heidelberg United:**  
 S.Tilovski, C.Elvin, L.Byles,  
 S.Martin, Y.Galanos,  
 J.Kosic, P.Miller, A.La  
 Verde (O.Ederado 75'),  
 S.Alexovski, G.Slefendorfas,  
 N.Marinos (L.Doumbalis  
 81').

**Y.Hailemelkot**

**Scorers:** J.Kozic 31'  
**Yellow cards:** C.Elvin 12'  
**Red cards:** L.Byles 9',  
 S.Alexovski 26'

**Man of the Match:** T.Rixon  
 (Northcote City)

**Venue:** John Cain Memorial  
 Park  
**Crowd:** 800

# Rixon Revels as Bergers See Red

By Tony Persoglia

**Northcote City celebrated its 50th anniversary with an emphatic win over traditional rivals Heidelberg United at a sun-drenched John Cain Memorial Park on Saturday afternoon. In a match marred by a number of contentious cautions and send-offs, the Blues made the most of its two-man advantage by claiming a second 5-1 victory over the Bergers this season.**

In a match critical to both club's finals chances, United looked the goods early, maintaining possession in the midfield and threatening a nervous looking home team at every opportunity. As early as the third minute, Josip Kozic was played through on goal, only for Chris Petropoulos to anticipate the danger immediately and charge out of his box to pull off an early save. Yanni Galanos came close barely five minutes later, Petropoulos again called into action to touch his speculative shot around the right post.

As players prepared for the resulting corner, Brenton Hayward issued a red card to Luke Byles for an incident behind play (a retaliatory stomp on Adrian Chiappetta) which left the English defender perplexed as to why he was heading back to the dressing room.

As the niggle between both teams escalated, a yellow card was issued to Craig Elvin shortly afterwards and Bergers coach George Katsakis was clearly agitated, letting the referee know of his displeasure in no uncertain terms. Hayward was on hand again, removing a frustrated Katsakis from the technical area. With barely fifteen minutes played, Heidelberg was down a man and a coach.

Despite the numerical disadvantage, the Bergers looked the better of the two sides, but ultimately conceded when Elvin fouled Nick Curtis in the penalty area, Hayward quick to point to the spot. The Blues captain Trent Rixon

sent Steve Tilovski the wrong way with an expertly taken penalty buried to the left post. A goal down, a man down and a coach down, the Bergers must have been contemplating what more could go wrong. Unfortunately for the visitors, Saso Aleksovski received his marching orders after the assistant referee adjudged him to have thrown the ball directly at a back-turned match official, Brenton Hayward having no hesitation in issuing a second red card after consulting with his assistant.

If the match wasn't over as a contest at this point, then it was five minutes later, when Trent Rixon provided a moment of sheer brilliance. After taking possession of a pass just outside the box, Rixon turned his opponent inside-out and with his left foot curled a fabulous shot past Tilovski into the top left corner of the net. It was a goal worthy of any A-League striker, Ernie Merrick and John van't Schip take note.

To their credit, the Bergers continued to plug away at the Blues defence, and Josip Kozic brought one back after a speculative free kick which eluded the Blues defence, ultimately found its way past Petropoulos in the Northcote goal. In truth, they were unlucky not to have restored parity when Steve Martin sent a raking left foot free-kick from 30 yards just wide of the post only minutes before the half.

However, the numerical disadvantage began to take its toll in the second half, and Rixon completed his hat-trick in the 56th minute after some great lead-up work from Harry Kinigopoulos. With 15 goals this season, the Albury born striker is odds-on favourite to claim the Premier League golden boot this season.

Northcote City could do little wrong in the second half, the injection of Stuart Nicholson (for a rested Nixon) and veteran George Papadopoulos providing the impetus for goals four and five respectively. It was Nicholson's individual brilliance which saw him power into the box and send a fantastic



Sealed with a kiss: Stuart Nicholson cops a sloppy one after being instrumental for two of Northcote's goals. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

cut-back across the goal line which was slotted in by the Heidelberg defence.

The former West Bromwich Albion striker returns home after this game, and although he didn't score in his farewell appearance, he will be missed in the closing stages of this campaign.

From a sentimental point of view and a fans perspective, the goal of the match came from a set piece, when the evergreen Papadopoulos pounced on a defensive spill to drive a powerful right shot into the roof of the goal and cue

scenes of celebration amongst the players and supporters. 5-1 it would finish

The Blues continue their charge towards a maiden finals appearance, playing their catch-up fixture against Bentleigh Greens on Wednesday evening, before travelling to Melbourne Knights on Sunday. The Bergers, left to pick up the pieces from a sorry day at the office, return home next week against a buoyant Green Gully in a must win for both clubs.



Trent Rixon does his Golden Boot chances no harm with a hat-trick in the derby. PHOTO: PETER PSARROS



Stuart Nicholson powers into the penalty box. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

ALTONA MAGIC



0

HUME CITY



3

## Squad Lists:

Altona Magic: Tomislav TOMICH, Doug MLADENOVIC (Aleksander KOLTOVSKI 30'), Dejan RADOJICIC, Pece SIVESKI, Mathew THEODORE, George PAPADOPoulos, Pece CERGOVSKI, James DUCEVSKI, John THORNLEY, Sime KOVACEVIC, Goran TALEVSKI

Unused cubs: Justin NIKOLOVSKI, Jose VASQUEZ, Andrew SFETCOPoulos

Yellow cards: SIVESKI 45', KOLTOVSKI 75'

Hume City: Lupce ACEVSKI, Fabio DILIZIA, Serdar PIR, Isiyan ERDOGAN, Richard CARDZOZO, Andy VLAHOS (Alfonso OPAZO 66'), Ross THOMPSON (Dusko DELIC 55'), Zoran PETREVSKI, Tansel BASER (Brendan BENI 75'), Michael BOSEVSKI, Phillip RICCOBENE

Unused subs: Turhan SUMBUL, Marijo ROZA

Yellow cards: PETREVSKI 56'

Goals: VLAHOS 16'; PETREVSKI 30', DILIZIA 49'

# Hume on song as Magic left to ponder

By Gigi Silk

**Hume City is in second position on the Alanic Victorian Premier League ladder, after a convincing win over Altona Magic at Paisley Park on Saturday evening.**

Hume took out the match 3-nil at Altona's home ground after Andy Vlahos, Zoran Petrevski and Fabio Dilizia were each able to find the net, bringing down Altona's defence and strengthening their position as strong finals contenders.

In the 16th minute, Vlahos caught the rebound off a failed goal attempt that hit the post to slot the ball past Tomislav Tomich, to give Hume City an early lead.

Hume's next scoring opportunity came only minutes later when Altona Magic's Sime Kovacevic pushed Petrevski in the back just outside the box. The free was taken by Richie Cardozo but was easily saved by Tomich.

Another devastating blow for Altona came in the 29th minute when Tomich lost concentration and came too far out of his goal to even attempt to save a ball that Petrevski had aimed straight into the net, putting Hume City in front, 2-nil.

Altona were not able to catch a break with Doug Mladenovic landing awkwardly on his leg, and coming off the pitch a few minutes later. He was replaced by Aleksander Koltovski.

Hume's defence was too strong for Altona with them consistently clearing the ball, and finding their way to the front of the pack.

By half time, Hume was dominat-

ing, playing for points to try and push Richmond from top spot.

After a text-book header with perfect execution from Philip Riccobene in the 48th minute, Hume had a commanding three-nil lead over Altona Magic.

However, all was not lost for Altona. They upped their offensive pressure in the second half to try and loosen Hume's firm grip on the match.

Pece Cergovski found his way past the Hume defenders to have a shot on goal that had Lou Acevski's natural reflexes kicking-in to stop the ball from hitting his head.

After a yellow card for Petrevski for talking back at the referee, Kovacevic came close to putting Altona on the scoreboard with a header that only just missed the net.

Hume swapped opening goal-scorer and coach, Andy Vlahos for Alfonso Opazo; and Brendan Beni returned to the side, replacing Tansel Baser.

With only seconds remaining, George Papadopoulos found a run on the left wing, crossed the ball into Mathew Theodore for another near-miss for Altona.

Following this victory, Hume City hasn't lost a match since Round 15, and they are looking like the team to beat in the finals.

On the other side, Altona Magic is languishing 11th spot on the Alanic Victorian Premier League ladder, staring down the barrel of relegation.

Hume City will face the Bentleigh Greens at home next week, while Altona Magic will take on first-placed Richmond at Kevin Bartlett Reserve.



Hume's Zoran Petrevski shields the ball from Magic's Doug Mladenovic.  
PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS



Hume's Tansel Baser approves of Zoran Petrevski's goal to put Hume in front 2-0. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

SOUTH MELBOURNE



2

RICHMOND EAGLES



2

## South Melbourne

Peter Zois, Steven O'Dor, Eddie Cetkin, Joe Keenan, Carl Recchia, Gianni De Nittis (Jason Ricciuti), Rama Tavascioglu, Fernando De Moraes (Kyle Joryeff), Marinos Gasparis (Hamid Basma), James Stefanou, Daniel Vasilevski  
(Scorers: De Moraes 15', O'Dor 35')

## Richmond Eagles

Stjepan Gal, Andrew Viola, Dimitri Tsiaras, Milos Lujic, Daniel Visevic, Michael Ferrante, Antun Kovacic, Michael Catalano, Tomislav Milardovic, Steven Topalovic, Davey Van't Schip  
Subs: Stefan Piorkowski, Jesse Krnceanic, Mate Eterovic, Mitch Bissinger, Peter Sawan  
(Scorers: Visevic 68', Ferrante 77')

## Man of the Match: Daniel Vasilevski (South Melbourne)

Venue: John Cain Memorial Park  
Date: Sunday 1 August 2010  
Crowd: 500

# Ferrante strike earns Eagles top spot

By John Kyrou

**Richmond returned to the top of the VPL ladder and at the same time severely dented South Melbourne FC's finals aspirations after coming from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 at John Cain Memorial Park on Sunday afternoon. A wonder strike from Michael Ferrante earned the Eagles a point in a match where they had been outclassed for the vast majority of the 90 minutes.**

South started the match on fire and almost opened the scoring in the first few minutes when Joe Keenan beat goalkeeper Stjepan Gal in a foot race to the ball but hit the post instead of the back of the net. South were clearly dominating and got the goal they deserved on 15 minutes when Fernando De Moraes put away the loose ball after Gal had made a save off Marinos Gasparis. The goal put the South midfielder into outright tenth position on South's all-time leading League goal scorers list.

Steven O'Dor was celebrating his 100th League match for South and the centre-half marked the occasion in the best way possible by heading in South's second for the afternoon ten minutes before halftime. Keenan's inswinging corner was perfectly placed for O'Dor to beat a flapping Gal to the ball and head into the empty goal. The 2-0 lead was more than what South deserved after a dominant first half in which Richmond was lucky not to be at least three or four goals down.

South continued its dominance after

the break and had two glorious chances to finish the game off; however it was unable to do so as the Eagles just managed to hold on. Richmond pulled a goal back midway through the second half in controversial circumstances, after Keenan looked to have been fouled in South's attack. However despite the pleas for a free kick, play was continued and as a result Richmond won possession, took the ball down the field to the waiting Daniel Visevic who found time and space to put the ball past South's unlucky goalkeeper Peter Zois.

Richmond could sense South's vulnerability and punished the home side again when Ferrante gained possession outside the area and let fly with an unstoppable shot that smashed into the back of the net. Despite being outclassed for so long, the Eagles showed exactly why they were the League leaders as they had somehow clawed their way back into the match and ultimately won a point. Had it not been for some Zois saves late in the match, Richmond could have very well won the game but instead were more than happy to settle for a draw.

South must win its two remaining matches and hope that other results fall favourably in order to have any chance of playing finals football in 2010. The first of those huge matches is against Oakleigh Cannons at Jack Edwards Reserve on Friday night. That same night, Richmond can wrap up the Minor Premiership if it overcomes Altona Magic and the Bentleigh Greens defeat Hume City.



Though dwarfed by Richmond's big defenders, Michael Ferrante feels 10 feet tall after scoring a goal. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Joe Keenan's sliding tackle brings down Dimi Tsiasas PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

SUNSHINE GEORGIES



2

OAKLEIGH CANNONS



1

## Match Details

Apologies readers, but the information was unavailable as we went to press.

Ed.

# Georgies Throw A Lifeline

By Gordon Bennett

**Sunshine George Cross kept their Premier League chances very much alive with this come from behind 2-1 win over final's aspirant Oakleigh Cannons.**

The Georgies appeared heading for the drop after Ricky Diaco scored a sensational goal from 25 metres at the 68 minute mark that gave Martin John no chance what so ever.

Georgie coach Theo Constantiou emptied out his bench after this goal bringing on three forwards in a desperate attempt to get a result. Substitute Peter Koutsoupias first involvement in the game saw him get cautioned, but the little striker repaid his coach when he got on the

end of a James Blackburn header at the 87 minutes mark to blast home the equalising goal. In the excitement of scoring Koutsoupias took his shirt off briefly, for which he was cautioned again and shown the red card.

It was a very sweet and bitter moment for Koutsoupias who had only been on the pitch for 12 minutes. The drama continued to the end, with the 10 men Georgies still pushing forward in search for a most unlikely win.

This came in the 92 minute when Referee Matthew Evans awarded a penalty kick after he judged James Blackburn had been dragged in the penalty area. Young sweeper Craig Sweeney stepped up to the plate and

managed to get his shot past Griffin McMaster who despite getting plenty on the ball, could not prevent the winning goal. Sunshine George Cross fans could not believe their eyes at the turn around and their team's never say die attitude.

The strong winds affected the quality of the play in the first half with many high balls being played by both teams. Sunshine looked good going forward with good inter play on the right wing between Fidell Richards and Leo Shin that ended with a shot over the cross-bar. Martin John was forced to dive at the feet of Oakleigh's Michael Curcija to clear the danger after Andrew Bourakis gave the ball away in a dangerous position. Bill Damianos' free kick kick

saw Karpeh's flick header go narrowly past the post.

Not long after Jerry Karpeh had another close range header go over the bar after the ball bobbed all over the penalty area.

Ricky Diaco brought off a great save from Martin John following a well taken free kick. Ben Cogger and Leo Shin were in the heart of the action for the Cross and provided plenty of drive in midfield. Oakleigh's best scoring chance came after 38 minutes when a good centre by Ashley Savanah found Ricky Diaco inside the penalty area.

Despite Diaco's strong drive on target, Martin John produced another trade mark save, to send the teams on equal terms at the break. Though Sunshine had a lot of possession their attempts on goal were few and caused Griffin McMaster very few problems. Jerry Karpeh continued to pose a threat for the Cross and had a very good opportunity early in the second half when he got behind the Georgie defence, but his effort on goal was poor by his standard.

Goal scoring chances were limited with Fidell Richards having a close range shot blocked by a packed Oakleigh defence. At the other end Michale Curcija's deep cross found his strike partner Jerry Karpeh, but once again Martin John denied him by deflecting his header for a corner. It was a finely balanced match with the Georgies fans sensing a change in fortunes.

The home fans were stunned into silence and their hopes appeared to be dashed following Ricky Diaco's wonder strike to give Oakleigh the lead. What was to follow thrilled the small crowd at the Knights Stadium as the Georgies struck back with 2 goals in the final 5 minutes to end a 9 game losing streak.

This result has thrown a spanner in the works, as to which two teams will be relegated in two weeks time. In round 21 Oakleigh Cannons is at home to South Melbourne on Friday night, while Sunshine travels to The George Andrews Reserve to play Dandenong.



Alanic VPL action from last night's late game between Sunshine George Cross and Oakleigh Cannons. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS



## VPL Standings Round 20

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
<b>Richmond Eagles</b>	20	11	3	6	28	23	36
<b>Hume City</b>	20	11	5	4	37	26	35
<b>Green Gully Cavaliers</b>	20	10	3	7	31	21	33
<b>Oakleigh Cannons</b>	20	9	3	8	28	26	30
<b>Northcote City</b>	19	8	4	7	41	26	27
<b>Heidelberg Utd</b>	20	8	6	6	31	32	27
<b>Dandenong Thunder</b>	20	9	4	7	23	28	27
<b>South Melbourne</b>	20	8	6	6	36	28	24
<b>Melbourne Knights</b>	20	6	5	9	26	30	20
<b>Sunshine George Cross</b>	20	5	3	12	19	36	18
<b>Bentleigh Greens</b>	19	5	3	11	17	34	18
<b>Altona Magic</b>	20	4	5	11	33	40	17

## Oakleigh Cannons v N.T.C

Jack Edwards Reserve

Wed 4 Aug KO 8:30PM

## Oakleigh Cannons v South Melbourne

Jack Edwards Reserve

Fri 6 Aug KO 8:30PM

## Richmond v Altona Magic

Kevin Bartlett Reserve

Fri 6 Aug KO 8:30PM

## Dandenong Thunder v Sunshine George Cross

George Andrews Reserve

Sat 7 Aug KO 7:00PM

## VPL Round 21



## Hume City v Bentleigh Greens

Broadmeadows Valley Park

Sun 8 Aug KO 3:00PM

## Melbourne Knights v Northcote City

Knights Stadium

Sun 8 Aug 3:00PM

## Heidelberg Utd v Green Gully Cavaliers

Olympic Village

Sun 8 Aug 5:00PM

## Under 21s



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pt
South Melbourne	21	18	2	1	66	26	56	
Richmond	20	12	2	6	44	26	38	
N.T.C	21	9	8	4	60	40	35	
Green Gully Cavaliers	22	9	5	8	40	48	32	
Oakleigh Cannons	19	7	7	5	40	34	28	
Northcote City	20	7	6	7	50	44	27	
Heidelberg Utd	21	9	3	9	32	33	27	
Hume City	21	8	5	8	52	44	26	
Altona Magic	22	6	6	10	27	41	24	
Bentleigh Greens	20	7	2	11	34	38	23	
Melbourne Knights	21	7	3	11	34	41	21	
Sunshine George Cross	20	5	1	14	27	63	16	
Dandenong Thunder	18	2	4	12	21	44	10	
Bentleigh Greens	0							
Melbourne Knights	2							
Green Gully Cavaliers	3							
Dandenong Thunder	0							
Northcote City	4							
Heidelberg Utd	1							
Altona Magic	2	Hume City	1					
Sunshine George Cross	1							
Dandenong Thunder	0							
South Melbourne	1							
Bentleigh Greens	1							
Melbourne Knights	2							
Green Gully Cavaliers	3							
Dandenong Thunder	0							
Northcote City	4							
Heidelberg Utd	1							
Altona Magic	2	Hume City	1					
Sunshine George Cross	1							
Dandenong Thunder	0							
South Melbourne	1							
Bentleigh Greens	1							
Melbourne Knights	2							
Green Gully Cavaliers	3							
Dandenong Thunder	0							
Northcote City	4							
Heidelberg Utd	1							
Altona Magic	2	Hume City	1					
Sunshine George Cross	1							
Dandenong Thunder	0							
South Melbourne	1							
Bentleigh Greens	1							
Melbourne Knights	2							
Green Gully Cavaliers	3							
Dandenong Thunder	0							
Northcote City	4							
Heidelberg Utd	1							
Altona Magic	2	Hume City	1					
Sunshine George Cross	1							
Dandenong Thunder	0							
South Melbourne	1							
Bentleigh Greens	1							
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Green Gully Cavaliers	3							
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Dandenong Thunder	0							
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Green Gully Cavaliers	3							
Dandenong Thunder	0							
Northcote City	4							
Heidelberg Utd	1							
Altona Magic	2	Hume City	1					
Sunshine George Cross	1							
Dandenong Thunder	0							
South Melbourne	1							
Bentleigh Greens	1							
Melbourne Knights	2							
Green Gully Cavaliers	3							
Dandenong								

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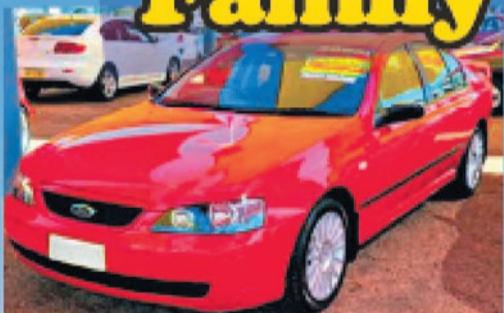
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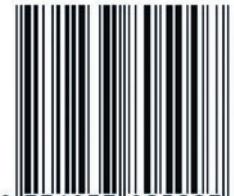
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